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CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION - ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE JUSTICE PÉNALE

HOMMAGE / TRIBUTE
ANDRÉ NORMANDEAU

GENERAL TOPICS
SUJETS GÉNÉRAUX

YOUNG RESEARCHERS
JEUNES CHERCHEURS

Staging Prison Theatre in Canada
Setting the Spotlight on William Head on Stage

Thana Ridha and Sylvie Frigon
University of Ottawa Press

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BOB CHRISMAS

THE WATCH
By Robert Chrismas

WINNIPEG
POLICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

ONLINE - EN LIGNE : CCJA-ACJP.CA

The JUSTICE REPORT contains information of value to Association readers and the public interested in matters related to the administration of justice in Canada. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the Association's views, but are included to encourage reflection and action on the criminal justice system throughout Canada.

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L'ACTUALITÉS JUSTICE renferme des renseignements utiles aux lecteurs de l'Association et au public qui s'intéressent aux questions relatives à l'administration de la justice au Canada. Les opinions qui sont exprimées ne reflètent pas nécessairement les vues de l'Association, mais y figurent afin d'encourager à réfléchir et à agir sur la justice pénale dans tout le Canada.

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EDITORIAL

IRVING KULIK

Executive Director

Canadian Criminal Justice Association

A most important part of the CCJA's work has been its input into government criminal justice legislation and policies. This input is stewarded through our Policy Review Committee to the Board before being sent to Parliamentary Committees, ministers, or the Prime Minister.

Unfortunately, and with few exceptions, the criminal justice file has been sparse this past year. The potential election and subsequent campaign period led to some discussions of crime, but few concrete proposals for prevention. Some ten years ago we provided the new government with detailed ideas to revive proven initiatives, such as the pardons programme. Not much has been instituted, but we had hoped a new mandate would offer more than increasing prison populations.

We maintain a wait-and-see attitude; however, it is clear that much of the attention will be focused on economic issues in response to U.S. actions that can have devastating impacts on our country and welfare. Will there be legislative time for meaningful consideration of criminal justice, or will the conversation be limited to tariffs, taxes, and budgets?

This brings me to John Winterdyk's article in this issue of the *Justice Report*: "Trafficking Across the 49th Parallel: How the U.S. Trade War Could Worsen Human Exploitation". Professor Winterdyk shows how legislative and economic measures can have unexpected consequences. In today's context, he examines how organized criminal groups exploit the vulnerable through human trafficking. While

trade usually refers to goods crossing borders, a lack of collaboration among neighbours can also result in 'trade' involving human beings.

Our Editor, Nancy Wright, continues the interview series, this time with our 2024 Crime Prevention Award winner Dr. Robert Christmas. Drawing on his service and writing, they discuss the challenges frontline officers face — the need for mental health support related to trauma — and Bob's new role as head of Winnipeg's first Community Safety Team. With a similar focus, Dean Young's article calls for training civilian managers of para-police services and proposes a leadership syllabus to strengthen community safety.

CCJA honours Professor André Normandeau for what will soon be six decades as French-Language Book Review Editor with the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* (CJCCJ). A second article — "From Penitentiary to Posterity: Mesrine Through the Lens of Celebrated Quebec Criminologist André Normandeau" — reflects on his broader legacy.

The high cost of corrections is well known, but Loren Frederickson argues that today's prison security demands targeted investment ("Locked Doors, Open Risks..."). Young Researcher Gordy Ha (Mount Royal University) offers a fascinating article about how to trace 3D Guns in "Ghost Guns Under the Microscope: New Forensic Techniques for Tracing 3D-Printed Firearms". Years ago, visiting William Head Institution in BC, I saw an inmate-produced play — an experience that stayed with me. William Head on Stage is the focus of Thana Ridha and Sylvie Frigon's *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada*, which explores its transformative impact.

With 2025 underway, our next congress is coming into view. All ideas for themes, topics, and a venue, are welcome.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



ÉDITORIAL

IRVING KULIK

Directeur Général

Association Canadienne de Justice Pénale

Une composante essentielle du travail de l'ACJP demeure sa contribution aux lois et politiques en matière de justice pénale. Celle-ci transite par notre Comité de révision des politiques, puis par le Conseil d'administration, avant d'être transmise aux comités parlementaires, aux ministres ou au Premier ministre.

Malheureusement, à quelques exceptions près, le dossier de la justice pénale est demeuré peu actif cette année. La campagne électorale anticipée a suscité quelques échanges sur la criminalité, mais peu de propositions concrètes en matière de prévention. Il y a une dizaine d'années, nous avons soumis au nouveau gouvernement des idées détaillées pour relancer des initiatives éprouvées, comme le programme de pardons. Peu ont été mises en œuvre, mais nous espérons qu'un nouveau mandat offrirait plus que l'augmentation des populations carcérales.

Nous restons en mode attente, mais il est clair que l'attention se portera sur les enjeux économiques, en réaction aux mesures des E.-U. aux effets potentiellement dévastateurs pour notre pays. Y aura-t-il du temps législatif pour traiter sérieusement de justice pénale, ou le débat sera-t-il dominé par les tarifs, taxes et budgets?

Cela m'amène à l'article de John Winterdyk : "Trafficking Across the 49th Parallel: How the U.S. Trade War Could Worsen Human Exploitation". Il montre comment des mesures législatives ou économiques peuvent avoir des effets inattendus. Il démontre comment des groupes criminels exploitent

les plus vulnérables par la traite de personnes. Si le commerce international évoque généralement les biens, l'absence de collaboration entre voisins peut aussi mener à un commerce d'êtres humains.

Notre rédactrice Nancy Wright poursuit la série d'entrevues, cette fois avec notre lauréat 2024 du Prix de prévention du crime, le Dr Robert (Bob) Chrismas. Ils discutent des défis vécus par les policiers — traumatismes, besoins en santé mentale — ainsi que de son nouveau rôle à la tête de la première Équipe de sécurité communautaire de Winnipeg. Dans un esprit similaire, Dean Young appelle à former les gestionnaires civils des services parapoliciers et propose un programme de leadership en sécurité communautaire.

L'ACJP rend hommage au professeur André Normandeau pour bientôt six décennies comme responsable des recensions en langue française dans la *Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale* (RCCJP). Un second article — "From Penitentiary to Posterity: Mesrine Through the Lens of Celebrated Quebec Criminologist André Normandeau" — revient sur son apport plus large à la criminologie.

Si les coûts des services correctionnels sont bien connus, Loren Frederickson soutient que la sécurité carcérale actuelle exige des investissements ciblés ("Locked Doors, Open Risks"). Le jeune chercheur Gordy Ha (Université Mount Royal) explore de façon fascinante comment tracer les armes à feu imprimées en 3D dans "Ghost Guns Under the Microscope".

Il y a quelques années, en visite à l'établissement William Head en C.-B., j'ai assisté à une pièce montée par des détenus — une expérience marquante. Cette initiative, William Head on Stage, est au cœur de l'ouvrage de Thana Ridha et Sylvie Frigon, *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada*, qui en explore la portée transformatrice.

Alors que 2025 est en marche, notre prochain congrès se profile à l'horizon. Vos idées de thèmes, sujets ou lieux sont bienvenues.

Passez un été agréable et sécuritaire.

CCJA Interview With Robert (Bob) Christmas (PhD)

NANCY WRIGHT

*In this CCJA Interview, Robert (Bob) Christmas (PhD)—retired after 34 years in Canadian law enforcement—discusses his recent memoir *The Watch* and his new role as head of Winnipeg’s Community Safety Team (CST), an alternative response to traditional policing. His unfiltered look at frontline policing will resonate with police officers yet speaks to broader issues. It evokes systemic challenges—such as failures in child protection and lack of effective, accessible mental health support—that impact communities and overburden police. His novels, *The River of Tears* (2022) and *Dream Catcher: The Call Home* (2023), also show how unchecked childhood trauma can become a social determinant of crime, and how routine exposure to violence and victimization — compounded by inadequate mental health support — can lead to PTSD among officers. Both realities are reflected in growing calls by and for peer-informed support for police and justice-involved communities alike. This duality also comes into focus in Christmas’ discussion of Winnipeg’s trauma-informed CST, which is mandated to improve transit safety but often finds itself conducting follow-ups in nearby homeless encampments. Inspired by Christmas’ postdoctoral research into officer PTSD, Winnipeg’s CST now benefits from a debriefing circle. The CST’s compassionate model connects vulnerable people to services and eases pressure on police—who may not be able to fix broken systems but are well placed to help expose the gaps. A lifelong volunteer, Bob also shares hope that a culture of community service is once again on the rise.*

The CCJA welcomes Dr. Robert (Bob) Christmas, a retired Canadian police officer/Staff Sergeant), criminologist, prolific author, and head of Winnipeg’s first Community Safety Team. In Part I of this interview, we discuss Dr. Christmas’ recent memoir *The Watch* reflecting on his career in policing; in Part 2, we turn to Bob’s current work leading Winnipeg’s inaugural Community Safety Team.

PART 1 — THE WATCH

Christmas, B. (2024). NY: DIO Press Inc.

Preamble

In your recent memoir, *The Watch*, you recount responding as a new recruit to a potential stabbing in the 1990s, where four neglected children remained disengaged even when officers were walking through their room. You didn’t call child protection services, noting they were overburdened and that children often ended up back in the same conditions. After the call, your partner delivers grim news: “Some will find support in gangs or prostitution... prisons are full of people who pulled a bad hand in life’s poker game. It’s not their fault” (p. 13).

Justice Report #39.4¹ contains an article relating the lived experience of a social worker (MSW) growing up under the “Code of Silence”: “Tell no one... especially not the police.” The ingrained distrust of authorities, first learned in foster care, nearly cost her life and interventions often caused more harm than good.

In *The Watch*, you describe how witnessing similar violence and degradation daily affects officers: “One thing they can’t prepare you for is the effect this exposure has on you... Some self-medicate, become depressed, and all suffer PTSD to some degree” (p. 14).

According to Child Welfare PAC Canada², founded by former youth-in-care Jane Kovarikova, “The rate of post-traumatic stress for youth after care is almost double that of war veterans.” PAC advocates for trauma-informed support and systemic reforms to improve outcomes for youth transitioning out of care.

A 2021 report, *Still Waiting: Investigating Child Maltreatment after the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry*, examined 19 child deaths due to maltreatment

1. Lund, D. M. (2024). “Happy Endings”. In 7th Step Peer Support With Guest Editor Nancy Everson-Berrigan [Special Issue]. *Justice Report* 39(4): 29-32. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA).

2. Child Welfare PAC Canada. (n.d.). *Child Welfare PAC Canada*. <https://www.childwelfarepac.com/>

(2008–2020), raising concerns about the effectiveness of child protection services. As of 2022, Manitoba had 9,196 children in out-of-home care — one of the highest rates in Canada at 29.6 per 1,000 children — reflecting significant reliance on child protection interventions.

Questions

CCJA ♦ Bob Christmas, in your recent memoir, *The Watch*³, you describe children who seemed indifferent to police presence. In your experience, do you think a “code of silence” shapes interactions between police and vulnerable youth? If so, in what ways—and is this also reflected in your novels (*The River of Tears*, 2022 & *Dream Catcher: The Call Home*, 2023), which draw on your extensive experience in law enforcement and on survivor testimonials gathered in your doctoral research to shed light on the harsh realities of human trafficking in Canada?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ There is somewhat of a code of silence that stops some people from seeking help. It is heartbreaking to experience the helplessness that some children and vulnerable people feel, having nowhere to turn. It is also tough unpacking the moral injuries that police officers and emergency services personnel experience. They feel the trauma of being unable to help victims because of systemic failures and insufficient resources. The memory of that first stabbing incident that I described in *The Watch*, is one of hundreds that linger in my mind even after 35 years. I think it is impossible for people to be exposed to that much inhumanity without it leaving deep scars on your soul. The question is how we deal with the traumas and keep them from accumulating and developing into something much worse, or fatal. I've been involved in thousands of similar incidents since, many more dramatic. Sometimes it is the more innocuous events that have a lasting impact. I believe every emergency responder and police officer has a collection of these tiny scars on their soul. Many are buried deep in our psyche, but they are definitely there. The cumulative trauma of a thousand cuts can eventually add up to being fatal or debilitating if we don't find ways to unpack them.

In my novels I tried to tell that story of the detectives as a subscript to the human trafficking story. In *River of Tears*, I duplicated a narrative that is common among police officers, wanting to do more to help victims, and the struggle to resist becoming jaundiced from the work. In *Dream Catcher*, the sequel to *River of Tears*, I got pretty deep into the story of the traumas the work often causes. The paradox lies in the fact that the more intense the officer's passion is for connecting with and helping victims, the deeper the trauma they take on.

BOB CHRISMAS

bchristmas.com/category/my-books/

WRITING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

CCJA ♦ Your partner's words suggest a grim inevitability in how many of these children's lives unfold. Do you believe law enforcement can — or should — play a greater role in breaking these cycles?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ The outlook is in fact grim for many people, but we cannot take that burden on entirely; it could kill you. We see the worst of humanity on a daily basis. We also see the good. Generally, people are not calling the police for something good. It is always their crisis. So, we, in law enforcement, do what we can within the scope of the laws and our procedures and resources. Then, at a point we have to say to people that they also need to help themselves. We can arrest a violent man for domestic assault, but then we need the victim to do her part and testify; or, at the very least we need them to stop the cycle of violence and stay away from someone who has abused them for years. This work takes empathy and compassion, but sometimes emergency responders and police officers find it easier to develop a hard shell, that no one can penetrate.

Too much is downloaded by other service sectors onto the police. For instance, when we deal with children and then call child welfare for help — more

3. Christmas, 2024, *The Watch*, DIO Press Inc.

THE WATCH

IMPRESSIONS FROM A CAREER IN CANADIAN POLICING

By Robert Christmas



Christmas, R. (2024). The Watch. NY: DIO Press Inc.

often than not we are told there are not enough resources. We are left to figure it out ourselves and do the best we can. In that way the police cannot do more, except to have a compassionate demeanor and do the best we can for people in each encounter. We always wish we had more time and better solutions.

What the police can do better, is coordinating with the other service sectors. It is not in our (police) mandates to create better resources and coordinated efforts around how we deal with children and people in mental health crisis. However, we can use our influence and credibility, which is substantial, to bring the right agencies and people around the table. This is where a lot of police officers focus our efforts. Others go into self-protection mode, just responding and doing the best they can with the task at hand-but not necessarily trying to solve the root of the problems.

CCJA ♦ Your writing explores the cumulative impact of trauma exposure in policing, drawing from both your personal experience and postdoctoral research on peer support for public service personnel. How did you personally cope, and what systemic changes do you think are needed to better support officers facing PTSD?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ We can do a lot to protect the mental health of first responders. When I started in policing the stigma of seeking help was a real thing. More often than not our desk sergeants would say "don't bring your personal problems to work." Ironically, our "personal problems" more often than not stemmed from the trauma of our work. Now, PTSD and the need for mental health care are widely accepted; however, we still have a long way to go in implementation of preventive strategies.

More resources are being brought online. The special edition of *Justice Report* #38.2 that I edited, outlines a great number of initiatives underway creating resources for public safety personnel across Canada⁴. I have found personally, that our debriefing processes are too few and far between. In my 34-year policing career, we've always had critical incident

management. A great deal of resources would be implemented after a very traumatic event. However, the real damage is not from these extreme events. The real damage comes from the thousand micro-traumas that we are exposed to daily in the work and never address.

The small traumas of daily routine exposure to violence and victimization never get unpacked for most. They are seemingly too inconsequential to bring up at work. Emergency responders learn quickly not to share too much with their family and loved ones either. All that accomplishes is dumping your trauma on your spouse. For most, we learn from the shocked look on our spouse's face that we probably shouldn't share what we saw at work.

The cumulative trauma adds up for everyone involved in emergency services. It is this experience and knowledge I had in mind when I created our current Community Safety Team. My colleagues and I implemented a uniquely thorough briefing and debriefing process.

We meet to start and end each shift in a sharing circle, which creates a great mutual learning environment. It allows the team to all learn from each other about each encounter they deal with in their work. Debriefing also allows us to all share and unpack the trauma of various events that we dealt with throughout the day. These can be the risk of moral injury from not being able to help the oppressed people we work to help.

This can also include lifesaving first aid for drug overdoses. We saved well in excess of 20 lives in the first year. Some officers were shocked by the indifference that some people in the public had, stepping over someone dying in the sidewalk. The concept is simple and profound. We recently published an article in *Justice Report* #40.1, so that other agencies doing similar work across Canada could learn from our experience⁵.

CCJA ♦ Reporting on its website that post-care PTSD rates among children in care are nearly double those of war veterans, *Child Welfare PAC*

4. Christmas, R. (Ed., 2023). "Peer Support by & for Canadian Public Safety Personnel" Special Issue. *Justice Report* 38(2). Ottawa: CCJA.

5. Welsh, C. and R. Christmas (in press, 2024) "The Virtuous Briefing Circle: A safety net for those who protect." *Justice Report* 39(4): 20-23. Ottawa: CCJA.

Canada — founded in Ontario by former youth-in-care Jane Kovarikova — advocates for trauma-informed support and systemic reforms to improve outcomes for youth transitioning out of care. Based on your experiences, what changes do you think would make the biggest differences in Manitoba?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ There is a lot we, as a society, can do to improve outcomes for children who experience trauma. My book, *Sex Industry Slavery: Protecting Canada's Youth*⁶ was based on my dissertation research⁷. In it, I described many tangible upstream approaches that could improve outcomes for children.

For example, we know that children who have been victims of childhood trauma are at greater risk of being exploited in the sex industry later in life. Why not track these children and provide their caregivers literature and information on how to prevent their children from being exploited when they reach the vulnerable age of 13 years old?

Every region in Canada has different socio-economic challenges. In Manitoba we have a particularly large and impoverished Indigenous community. They are suffering the transgenerational impacts of our failed colonial policies, including the residential schools and the sixties baby scoop. They are suffering the structural violence of poverty, and severed connections with the land and their culture.

Manitoba has a uniquely troubled history in child welfare that has seen several evolutions of child protection, from centralized to devolved into 21 different child welfare agencies. This has equated, at least in part, to our having the highest number of children in care of the state across Canada. I won't comment further here on the child welfare system, as it really isn't my area of expertise. I can say, without hesitation, that police across Canada have been overburdened for many decades with child protection issues that fit more squarely in the mandate of child welfare agencies.

CCJA ♦ In *The Watch*³, you point out that someone with a different title, like a social worker, could try to do the functions police do, but they would have to be trained and equipped in the same way. Isn't the reverse also true—that police need specialized training, or even a separate degree, in social work?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ There are two main philosophical camps within policing. One is that the police should stick to law enforcement and leave the social work to other agencies. The other camp is that the police can play a major role in addressing all manner of social issues beyond law enforcement. The "defund police" movement gets at the heart of this discourse.

Many in policing feel we should get back to providing core services, and that all other services, such as social work, should be left to other service sectors. My feeling has always been that the police have taken on too much from the other service sectors. However, we can use our influence and credibility to make those changes happen. Social workers cannot take on a lot of what the police do because it is just too dangerous. The police cannot take on more social work roles because they are already overburdened with emergency response and investigations. However, there are great synergies to be had by partnering social workers with police officers. This is being done across Canada in a variety of services from child abuse investigations to intervening with mental health issues. Police and social work can provide a much more rounded and effective service when they work collaboratively together.

CCJA ♦ If you could change one aspect of how police interact with child protection services, what would it be?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ There is definitely room for better collaboration and joint initiatives. I'd like to see more resources invested in child protective services, and a more seamless integration of teams working together around child protection issues.

6. Chrismas, R. (2020). *Sex Industry Slavery: Protecting Canada's Youth*. Toronto, ON, Canada: University of Toronto Press.

7. Chrismas, R. (2017). *Modern Day Slavery and the Sex Industry: Raising the Voices of Survivors and Collaborators While Confronting Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in Manitoba, Canada*. Available online at MSpace, University of Manitoba.

PART 2 — BOB CHRISMAS HEAD OF WINNIPEG'S COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

Preamble

The COVID-19 pandemic deepened social crises across Canada, including in Winnipeg, where rising poverty, food insecurity, unaffordable housing, and a deadly wave of street drugs has placed unprecedented stress on public safety services. These challenges have also spilled into public transit, leading to declining ridership and a growing struggle to retain bus drivers. In response, Winnipeg launched its first Community Safety Team, an initiative aimed at bridging systemic emergency service gaps. This represents a strategic shift from traditional law enforcement toward a more compassionate, support-based approach for vulnerable populations. As the head of this new initiative, Bob Christmas brings his decades of policing experience to this pioneering approach to community safety.

Questions

CCJA ♦ Please discuss the shift from traditional policing to the social-support-oriented response that characterizes the Community Safety Team initiative. (b) Which community/social supports (shelters, child protection, mental health and addiction centres and groups) for vulnerable populations in Winnipeg has your team resourced so far and what has been the impact? In your opinion, what gaps in community services still exist?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ For about eight of the last thirteen years of my 34-year policing career, I was a Staff Sergeant working in the Executive Duty Office. My role was to be the senior ranking officer on duty in the City of Winnipeg. About half the time I was acting up in rank as Inspector. In either case I was a senior ranking officer making decisions, in real-time command of all police resources on duty.

My colleagues and I could see the growing systemic gaps as the police have slowly become overwhelmed in recent decades. They've become overwhelmed with taking on non-emergency duties that have been



CREDIT: Robert Christmas

offloaded by the service sectors, including healthcare (the growing street drug crisis), mental health and child welfare. Poverty is at the root of many of our social problems, and that is clearly beyond the scope of anything the police can do. The frustration comes when you realize we are only reacting to symptoms of social problems, so we aren't actually solving anything. Certainly, giving someone a fine does little to fix their problems if they stem from poverty. If anything, in a lot of cases arresting people only exacerbates their problems.

It was clear to me that we need to get more upstream with many of the issues we've been embroiled in. If we aren't doing anything about the root causes of social problems, then we're spinning our wheels. The cycle of court and prison only worsens people's troubles and results in recidivism. As the familiar saying goes, we can't arrest our way out of social problems.

Winnipeg Mayor Gillingham envisioned a Community Safety Team to fill system gaps in his 2023 Mayoral campaign. It appealed to me as the opportunity we needed to improve the system. I agreed and also envisioned a team that could fill the gaps, interfacing with people in a more humane, trauma-informed way, treating them with compassion that we simply did not have time for in policing. This way we would not only react to problems, but could work towards solving them, one individual at a time. For more background one can read an article I published

9. Christmas, R. (2024). "Reconciliation and Community Well-Being: Collaborating by Design in the City of Winnipeg". *Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being* 9(2): 1-2.

recently on the design and intent of the team⁹.

With the Community Safety Team, we've taken just such a compassionate approach. I tell our Safety Officers to spend five hours with someone if they need to, to get them into housing, programming or simply get them to a better place. This way they are not fighting on a bus or squatting in the same bus shelter the next day. In policing we never had the luxury of time to do this proactive work on a regular basis.

It is fulfilling work in that we are offering service in a compassionate way to our fellow human beings. By working to address the root causes of people's problems, we are actually solving them, rather than temporarily pushing them aside.

CCJA ♦ With public transit safety being the priority, what are the biggest challenges your Community Safety Team faces on the ground, and how are they addressing them?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ One of the biggest challenges we've faced with our new Community Safety Team is making an impact in a massive system with a relatively small number of people. In Winnipeg there are 500 buses on the road each day. Hundreds of bus shelters also need our attention as people are living in them.

We have about 25 deployable officers, and they never go out alone, so 10 or less teams each day. With this small number of teams, we are challenged to decide where we can get the most impact. We are data driven and laser focussed, striving to make a dent in the most problematic areas. At the same time, we have to be seen in the suburbs and less problematic areas in order to improve overall feelings of safety among the public. At the same time, we are being drawn in a hundred directions as political leaders, business owners and citizens constantly try to get our attention.

CCJA ♦ Given the broader crisis in homelessness, addiction, and mental health, do you see this model expanding beyond transit to other public spaces in Winnipeg?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ Our Community Safety Team was envisioned and established as a permanent element in Winnipeg's safety network. While the initial commitments are to focus on the transit system, we are empowered and also work anywhere in the city. Most recently in March 2025 Mayor Gillingham announced in his state of the city address his plans for a new Safe Winnipeg Initiative.

This will involve greater coordination between the Community Safety Team, Winnipeg Police Service, our Fire/Paramedic Services and the network of government and non-government agencies that currently collaborate around social issues in the City. Our initial focus has been in Winnipeg Transit, but working with our vulnerable populations has taken us organically out of just working within Transit. We are not sure where all this work will lead, but the model of compassionate service is being viewed as worth emulating. We are also being drawn away from Transit organically as many of the people we deal with fighting on the buses also live in encampments nearby.

CCJA ♦ In addition to your extensive career in policing, we understand you've also dedicated time to volunteering in your community. How important do you believe volunteer work is—not just for public service professionals, but for everyday citizens? Canadians have historically been known for high volunteerism rates, but studies suggest that participation has declined in recent years. Why do you think that is, and what can be done to reinvigorate a stronger culture of community volunteerism today?

BOB CHRISMAS ♦ This is an important question. Some of us feel a greater desire to give of our time and energy to the community. I gave myself to the community many years ago. As a high school drop-out who later achieved my PhD, I have a strong feeling of gratitude for all the opportunities I've had, and I do my best to pay it forward. Part of it is the fact that I have devoted my entire life to public service. But, beyond that I feel a sense of duty to give of my time as well. I've served on many volunteer boards and prided myself on being able to represent the interests on multiple boards even when the agencies

we were running seemed to have opposing interests.

At one point I was on five different volunteer boards. Each one had a monthly meeting, and each board normally would ask members to be on at least one committee; so, that is then two meetings per month per board. I ended up being at board meetings sometimes five evenings per week. It got to be too much, and I wanted to focus on my writing, so I pulled back on the boards at one point. I view my writing as community service as well as I do it for free in order to add to the discourse and call for action on social issues.

One time I had a tour of a large shelter in Winnipeg, and it provided an incredible range of services for unhoused people. I almost cried as the executive director explained all that they do. I said I was shocked and feel that the government should be providing all these services, rather than this non-governmental organization (NGO). He replied; "yes, but 6,000 people won't volunteer to help government." That insight stuck with me. The years I was on the board of Manitoba Federation of Non-Profit Organizations, I learned a lot about the volunteer sector. Many in our aging society are looking for meaningful work to feel fulfilled in retirement. Volunteering often fills that gap. At the same time, entering the job market is increasingly challenging for young people, and volunteer work allows them to gain experience as a springboard into their chosen careers. So, I feel volunteerism may be on an upswing.

**CCJA ♦ Thank you very much Robert (Bob)
Christmas for taking time out of your busy
schedule for this CCJA Interview.**

RÉSUMÉ

CCJA INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT (BOB) CHRISMAS (PHD)

NANCY WRIGHT

Dans cette entrevue avec l'ACJP, Robert (Bob) Christmas (Ph. D.), aujourd'hui retraité après 34 années dans les forces de l'ordre canadiennes, revient sur son récit autobiographique *The Watch* ainsi que sur son nouveau rôle à la tête de l'équipe de sécurité communautaire (Community Safety Team – CST) de Winnipeg, une initiative conçue comme une alternative concrète au modèle policier traditionnel. Son témoignage sans filtre sur la réalité du travail policier de première ligne trouve un écho auprès des agents, mais soulève également des enjeux sociaux beaucoup plus vastes. Il aborde de front des problématiques systémiques telles que les lacunes persistantes en matière de protection de l'enfance et le manque flagrant de soutien en santé mentale. Ces lacunes ont des répercussions profondes sur les communautés et contribuent à la surcharge des services policiers. Dans ses romans *The River of Tears* (2022) et *Dream Catcher: The Call Home* (2023), Christmas illustre aussi comment les traumatismes non traités dans l'enfance peuvent devenir des facteurs de risque criminel. Il y explore également comment l'exposition constante à la violence, combinée à un soutien psychologique inadéquat, peut entraîner un trouble de stress post-traumatique (TSPT) chez les agents. Ces constats alimentent les appels croissants à des formes de soutien mieux adaptées, fondées sur l'expérience vécue, autant pour les policiers que pour les personnes judiciarisées. Inspirée des recherches postdoctorales de Christmas, l'équipe CST inclut maintenant un cercle de débriefing. Ce modèle humain facilite l'accès aux services pour les personnes vulnérables et allège la pression sur la police. Bénévole engagé de longue date, Christmas partage l'espoir d'un renouveau de la culture du service communautaire.

Content by and with Robert (Bob) Christmas in the *Justice Report*

A long-time member of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) through our affiliate Manitoba Criminal Justice Association (MCJA), Dr. Christmas has also contributed tirelessly to the *Justice Report*, including a past CCJA Interview, participation in our Fact in Fiction column, a Special Issue (postdoctoral research) on Peer Support For/By Public Safety Personnel, and numerous solo and co-authored articles dating back to 2012.

"Special Issue on Peer Support By & For Canadian Public Service Personnel (PS) With Guest Editor Staff Sergeant Dr. Robert (Bob) Christmas", including the Editorial (pp. 4-5) and "Understanding the Challenges of Peer Support for Public Safety Personnel" (pp. 47-50) by Sonya Gill, Beth Milliard, & Robert Christmas. *Actualités Justice Report* 38(2): 45-47. [Special Issue] Robert Christmas, Guest Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2023.

"Fact In Fiction by Nancy Wright with Bob Christmas (2023): *Dream Catcher: The Call Home*." DIO Press. *Actualités Justice Report* 38(4): 45-47. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2023.

"Fact In Fiction by Nancy Wright with Bob Christmas (2021): *The River of Tears*". NY: DIO Press, 2021. *Actualités Justice Report* 37(4): 45-47. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2022.

"CCJA Interview with Robert (Bob) Christmas: The Use of Force in Canadian Policing" by Nancy Wright. *Actualités Justice Report* 36(3): 14-19. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2021.

"Ethnic Diversity in Policing" by Robert Christmas: *Actualités Justice Report* 37(1&2): 15-17. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2019.

"Multidisciplinary Collaboration – An Essential Tool and Skill of Responsible Public Service in High-Risk Service Provision" by Robert Christmas and Claudia Ponce Joly. *Actualités Justice Report* 30(2): 25-31. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2015.

"Community Policing in the Age of Technology" by Robert Christmas. *Actualités Justice Report* 29(4): 9-14. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2014.

Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale

La *Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale* (RCCJP) publie une évaluation trimestrielle des aspects scientifiques et théoriques de l'étude sur le crime et des problèmes pratiques en ce qui a trait à l'application de la loi, l'administration de la justice et le traitement des délinquants, en particulier dans le contexte canadien. La RCCJP met l'accent sur la recherche scientifique originale. Cette Revue appartient à l'Association canadienne de justice pénale (ACJP).



PALMARÈS DES ARTICLES EN FRANÇAIS LES PLUS CITÉS

Les interventions informelles de désistement assisté : une étude de la portée (60.2)

Isabelle F.-Dufour, Marie-Pierre Villeneuve, Caroline Perron

Épisodes d'inactivité et revenus criminels dans une trajectoire de délinquance (56.5)

Frédéric Ouellet, Pierre Tremblay

L'effet des lois en matière de contrôle des armes à feu sur les homicides au Canada, 1974-2004 (53.1)

Étienne Blais, Marie-Pier Gagné, Isabelle Linteau

Le renseignement : distinctions préliminaires (47.1)

Jean-Paul Brodeur

Quelques éléments de compréhension des libérations d'office réussies (45.1)

Marion Vacheret, Marie-Marthe Cousineau

L'influence thérapeutique de la perception de justice informationnelle et interpersonnelle sur les symptômes de stress post-traumatique des victimes de crimes (58.1)

Myriam Morissette, Jo-Anne Wemmers

Sursis, récidive et réinsertion sociale : un équilibre précaire (51.3)

Isabelle F.-Dufour, Renée Brassard, Jean-Pierre Guay

Policer la violence : Analyse du taux de déclaration et du taux d'enregistrement des victimisations criminelles au Canada en 1999 et 2004 (51.2)

Marc Ouimet, Jean-Michel Tessier-Jasmin

Le protocole sociojudiciaire en matière de violence conjugale : une mobilisation ciblée pour une innovation limitée dans un champ fortement conflictuel (49.3)

Angèle Bilodeau, Denis Allard, Chantal Lefebvre, Hélène Cadrin, Marie-Josée Pineault

La dynamique de la criminalité à Montréal : l'écologie criminelle revisitée (53.2)

Rémi Boivin, Frédéric Ouellet

Editors of the Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Rédacteurs de la Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale

1958-1960	Frank H. Potts, Founder
1966-1967	John Spencer, University of British Columbia
1967-1975	Marie-Andrée Bertrand, Université de Montréal
1975-1980	T.C. Willett

Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale

The *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* (CJCCJ) is a forum for original contributions and discussions in the fields of criminology and criminal justice, including the theoretical and scientific aspects of the study of crime and the practical problems of law enforcement, administration of justice, and treatment of offenders. CJCCJ is the official scholarly journal of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA).



MOST READ ARTICLES

Contacts with the Police and the Over-Representation of Indigenous Peoples in The Canadian Criminal Justice System (63.2)

Jean-Denis David, Megan Mitchell

Human Rights and Federal Corrections: A Commentary on a Decade of Tough on Crime Policies in Canada (58.4)

Ivan Zinger

Qualitatively Unpacking Canadian Public Safety Personnel Experiences of Trauma and Their Well-Being (60.4)

Rose Ricciardelli, R. Nicholas Carleton, Dianne Groll, Heidi Cramm

Unsettled Times: Indigenous Incarceration and the Links between Colonialism and the Penitentiary in Canada (61.3)

Vicki Chartrand

Do Static Risk Factors Predict Differently for Aboriginal Sex Offenders? A Multi-site Comparison Using the Original and Revised Static-99 and Static-2002 Scales (54.1)

Kelly M. Babchishin, Julie Blais, Leslie Helmus

A Process Evaluation of Toronto's First Youth Mental Health Court (57.2)

Krista M. Davis, Michele Peterson-Badali, Brian Weagant, Tracey A. Skilling

MOST CITED ARTICLES

Safe Streets for Whom? Homeless Youth, Social Exclusion, and Criminal Victimization (46.4)

Stephen Gaetz

The Risk-Need-Responsivity Model of Assessment and Human Service in Prevention and Corrections: Crime-Prevention Jurisprudence (49.4)

D.A. Andrews, Craig Dowden

Constructing Crime: Media, Crime, and Popular Culture (48.6)

Ken Dowler, Thomas Fleming, Stephen L. Muzzatti

Psychological Consequences of Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment (46.2)

Adrian Grounds

Childhood Predictors of Adult Criminality: A Meta-Analysis Drawn from the Prospective Longitudinal Literature (50.4)

Alan Leschied, Debbie Chiodo, Elizabeth Nowicki, Susan Rodger

The Hare and the Tortoise: Dangerousness and Sex Offender Policy in the United States and Canada (45.1)

Michael Petrunik

Visible Minorities and Confidence in the Police (53.1)

Liqun Cao

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1980-1984	W.T. McGrath, University of Toronto
1984-1991	Rick Linden, University of Manitoba
1991-2004	Julian V. Roberts, University of Oxford
2004-2019	Peter Carrington, University of Waterloo
2014-2019	Simon Verdun-Jones, Simon Fraser University (BC)
2019-	Patrick Lussier, Université Laval

L'ACJP remercie le Dr André Normandeau Depuis 1969 : Un héritage critique dans la *Revue Canadienne de Criminologie et de Justice Pénale* (RCCJP)¹

NANCY WRIGHT, ED.

Dans cet article, l'Association canadienne de justice pénale (ACJP) rend hommage à M. André Normandeau, figure centrale de la criminologie québécoise, dont l'influence s'est étendue à l'ensemble de la Francophonie et au-delà. Depuis 1969, le Dr Normandeau dirige la section des recensions d'ouvrages en langue française de la Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale, où il a imposé une norme d'excellence éditoriale et de rigueur critique. Professeur à l'Université de Montréal et successeur du criminologue pionnier Denis Szabo, il a présidé le Département de criminologie (1970-1980) avant de devenir directeur du Centre international de criminologie comparée (CICC). Défenseur convaincu d'une formation ancrée dans la pratique, il a contribué à l'internationalisation de la discipline grâce à son enseignement en Belgique, en France et aux États-Unis. La section de recensions qu'il dirige — souvent qualifiée de « journal dans le journal » — propose une analyse approfondie d'ouvrages québécois, canadiens et, à l'occasion, internationaux. L'Association canadienne de justice pénale lui exprime sa profonde reconnaissance pour une vie consacrée à l'avancement de la recherche criminologique en langue française. Ce numéro du Justice Report met en lumière son héritage durable et son engagement continu avec l'ACJP.

POUR LA DIFFUSION DU SAVOIR CRIMINOLOGIQUE

André Normandeau, Ph.D., a été responsable de la section des recensions de livres en langue française pour la *Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale* (RCCJP) depuis 1969. Ce travail colossal a permis de faire rayonner la recherche en justice pénale auprès des lecteurs francophones du Canada, du Québec, de la Francophonie et au-delà.

Criminologue de renom et professeur à l'Université de Montréal, il est aussi reconnu comme directeur honoraire de l'École de criminologie et du Centre international de criminologie comparée (CICC). Entré en fonction comme professeur en 1968-1969, il succède dès 1970 au célèbre Denis Szabo, premier criminologue canadien reconnu comme tel, et fondateur du tout premier département de criminologie au pays.



Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale
Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Recensions de livres (en langue française)



avec
André Normandeau, Ph.D.
Criminologue et Professeur
Université de Montréal

1. La *Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale* (RCCJP) appartient à l'Association canadienne de justice pénale (ACJP) et est publiée par les Presses de l'Université de Toronto (UTP).

UNE RÉORIENTATION VERS LA PRATIQUE

En tant que directeur du département de criminologie de 1970 à 1980, M. Normandeau transforme la vocation du programme. Il introduit une approche résolument axée sur la formation pratique, ancrée dans les réalités du terrain. Sa vision novatrice a forgé une nouvelle génération de chercheurs, de professionnels et de décideurs publics québécois et canadiens dans le domaine de la justice pénale au Canada.

UNE PORTÉE INTERNATIONALE

À travers sa carrière, M. Normandeau a également dirigé le CICC, renforçant sa portée scientifique à l'échelle mondiale. Il a pris part à plusieurs congrès internationaux organisés par le Centre au cours de ses 50 années d'existence (1969–2019), et a été professeur invité à de nombreuses reprises, tant aux États-Unis (notamment en Floride) qu'en Europe. Son expertise a ainsi enrichi des universités et des réseaux de recherche sur plusieurs continents.

UN « JOURNAL DANS LE JOURNAL »

Sous sa direction éditoriale, la section des recensions de livres en français de la RCCJP est devenue bien plus qu'un espace de recension : elle s'est imposée comme un lieu de réflexion critique. Chaque recension allait bien au-delà du simple résumé d'un ouvrage. Elle offrait une lecture éclairée, rigoureuse et contextualisée, souvent articulée autour des enjeux québécois et canadiens, tout en intégrant parfois des œuvres internationales.

Par sa diversité de sujets, sa profondeur d'analyse et la richesse de ses critiques, cette section donnait parfois l'impression d'un « journal dans le journal » — une contribution unique au discours criminologique francophone.

UN LEGS DURABLE

Alors que la direction éditoriale de la revue a évolué au fil des décennies, la présence de M. Normandeau est demeurée constante. Son engagement indéfectible a assuré une continuité intellectuelle et une rigueur éditoriale sans faille, élevant sans cesse les standards de publication. M. Normandeau n'est pas seulement un érudit : il est une institution à lui seul. Il a contribué à forger une culture criminologique en langue française au Canada, ancrée dans la recherche de qualité, l'ouverture sur le monde et la pertinence sociale.

RECONNAISSANCE DE L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE JUSTICE PÉNALE

L'Association canadienne de justice pénale lui exprime sa plus profonde gratitude pour ses contributions remarquables, qui ont façonné le champ de la criminologie et rehaussé la réputation de la revue depuis 1969.

L'Association canadienne de justice pénale (CCJA-ACJP) vous remercie, Dr Normandeau, pour une vie entière consacrée au service exceptionnel de l'avancement de la recherche criminologique dans la langue française.

Articles parus dans l'Actualités Justice, par ou portant sur M. André Normandeau

Articles published in the Justice Report, by or about Dr. André Normandeau

Ancien membre du conseil d'administration de l'Association canadienne de justice pénale (ACJP), M. Normandeau a également contribué de manière significative à la réussite de nombreux congrès nationaux organisés par l'Association.

Dr. Normdandeau, a former member of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) Board of Directors, also played a key role in the success of numerous national conferences hosted by the Association.

"Entrevue de l'ACJP avec André Normandeau" par Nancy Wright. *Actualités Justice Report* 34(2) : 7-12. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2019.

Panorama sur l'histoire de la criminologie au Canada : *Actualités Justice Report* 33(1) : 16-19. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2017.

"Carrière 'en bref' du criminologue et professeur André Normandeau (Ph. D.)- École de criminologie de l'Université de Montréal" par Guy Lemire. Career Tracking – Portraits professionnels. *Actualités Justice Report* 30(2) : 7-12. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2015.

"Rétablir la confiance à Montréal et ailleurs au Québec et au Canada : Le rôle de la police" par André Normandeau. *Actualités Justice Report* 28(4) : 15-18. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2014.

"La police de Montréal et d'ailleurs – Défis 2013-2015" par A. Normandeau. *Actualités Justice Report* 28(3) : 12-14. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2013.

"52 ans de 'criminologie et justice pénale à Montréal" par A. Normandeau. *Actualités Justice Report* 27(4) : 6-10. N. Wright, Ed. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2012.

"La police de proximité en Amérique du Nord: 1990-2005—Un succès mais non une panacée! (Une nette amélioration de la sécurité des citoyens, de l'ordre de 10 à 25 pourcents)". *Actualités Justice Report* 21(3) : 22-25. Ottawa: CCJA-ACJP. 2005.

The CCJA Thanks André Normandeau Since 1969: A Legacy of Critical Insight in the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* (CJCCJ)

NANCY WRIGHT, ED

In this article, the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) pays tribute to Dr. André Normandeau, a key figure in Québécois criminology whose influence has extended throughout the Francophone world and beyond. Since 1969, Normandeau has led the (French-Language) Book Review section of the CCJA's Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CJCCJ), setting a standard of editorial excellence and critical inquiry. As a professor at the Université de Montréal and successor to pioneering criminologist Denis Szabo, Normandeau chaired the Department of Criminology (1970–1980) before becoming Director of the International Centre for Comparative Criminology (CICC). A strong advocate for practice-based education, he helped internationalize the field through teaching in Belgium, France, and the United States. André Normandeau's book review section — which could be described as a "journal within the journal" — offers in-depth analysis of Québécois, Canadian as well as international works. The Canadian Criminal Justice Association expresses its deep gratitude for Normandeau's lifetime dedication to advancing criminological research. This section of Actualités Justice Report highlights André Normandeau's lasting legacy in criminological inquiry and his continued contributions to the French-Language Book Review section of the CJCCJ.

ADVANCING THE DISSEMINATION OF CRIMINOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

André Normandeau, Ph.D. has been editor of the French-language book review section of the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice* (CJCCJ) since 1969. Through his leadership, this section became a cornerstone in the dissemination of criminal justice research in French, reaching audiences in Quebec, across Canada, and throughout the Francophone world. A renowned criminologist and professor at the Université de Montréal, André Normandeau is also recognized as Honorary Director of both the School of Criminology and the International Centre for Comparative Criminology (CICC). He joined the faculty in 1968–69 and, by 1970, succeeded the legendary Denis Szabo—Canada’s first formally recognized criminologist and founder of the country’s first criminology department.

A SHIFT TOWARD APPLIED TRAINING

As Chair of the Department of Criminology from 1970 to 1980, Dr. Normandeau reoriented the department’s mission toward practice-based education, grounded in real-world challenges. His vision helped shape a generation of researchers, professionals, and public-sector leaders in the field of criminal justice.

AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Dr. Normandeau later served as Director of the CICC, where he played a key role in expanding its international reach. He actively participated in numerous CICC-led conferences during its 50-year history (1969–2019) and served regularly as a visiting professor in the United States — including in Florida — as well as in several European institutions. His expertise helped forge international academic and professional networks that continue to influence global criminological discourse.

A “JOURNAL WITHIN THE JOURNAL”

Under Normandeau’s editorial leadership, the journal’s French-language book review section became far more than a platform for summaries. Each review offers rigorous analysis and meaningful context, often addressing pressing issues in Quebec and Canada, while occasionally engaging with

international works. With its diversity of subjects and intellectual depth, Dr. Normandeau’s section came to resemble a “journal within the journal,” offering readers unparalleled insight into contemporary criminological thought in the French language.

A LASTING LEGACY

While editorial leadership evolved over the decades, Dr. Normandeau’s steady presence has ensured continuity and editorial excellence. His commitment helped raise the standards of scholarly publishing while promoting critical thinking and cultural relevance. Dr. Normandeau is more than a scholar — he is an institution. His contributions have shaped the Québécois and Canadian intellectual landscape of criminology and brought it into dialogue with the wider world.

RECOGNITION FROM THE CANADIAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Criminal Justice Association extends its deepest gratitude to Dr. Normandeau for his extraordinary lifetime of service — a contribution he continues to this day — and for elevating the visibility, credibility, and intellectual strength of the journal since 1969.

The CCJA thanks you, André Normandeau, for a life dedicated to the exceptional advancement of criminological research.

Du pénitencier à la postérité : Jacques Mesrine et l'héritage durable du criminologue québécois André Normandeau

NANCY WRIGHT, ED.

Cet article revient sur les rencontres de M. André Normandeau avec Jacques Mesrine lors de son évasion en 1972 du pénitencier de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul. À travers des entrevues et des balados récents, il explore la figure médiatique de Mesrine, ses défis lancés au système pénal, et les apports durables de Normandeau, éminent criminologue à la réputation internationale.

Dans l'article « L'évasion de Jacques Mesrine a marqué l'histoire du pénitencier de Laval », publié dans *Le Journal de Montréal* le 23 novembre 2024, le journaliste Mathieu-Robert Sauvé s'entretient avec M. André Normandeau au sujet de ses rencontres avec le célèbre criminel français Jacques Mesrine. L'entrevue revient sur l'évasion spectaculaire de Mesrine en 1972 et sur le travail de recherche que Normandeau menait cette même année au pénitencier de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, dans le cadre d'un projet universitaire. Cet échange offre non seulement un éclairage sur un moment marquant de l'histoire carcérale québécoise, mais met également en lumière la profondeur et l'influence d'une carrière criminologique exceptionnelle — une carrière qui continue de marquer la réflexion sur la justice comparée encore aujourd'hui.

Dans l'entrevue, Normandeau souligne les origines bourgeoises de Mesrine, son image publique soigneusement construite, ainsi que sa capacité à manipuler détenus et personnel carcéral — allant même jusqu'à convaincre certains gardiens de protester contre l'administration. Il estime également que les actes de Mesrine, notamment son évasion de 1972, ont remis en question l'efficacité du système pénal et suscité des débats sur la sécurité carcérale, la réinsertion sociale et le rôle des médias dans la manière dont le public perçoit la criminalité.

Un article intitulé « Grands criminels : au-delà de la fascination » et signé par la journaliste Catherine Couturier et publié le 18 janvier 2023 dans *UdeMNouvelles* rend compte d'un balado produit par le Centre international de criminologie comparée (CICC) de l'Université de Montréal, dans lequel le criminologue André Normandeau revient sur ses entrevues avec Jacques Mesrine en 1972. La série de balados, intitulée *Mesrine : l'orgueil et le sang*, comprend un épisode consacré au professeur émérite Normandeau, intitulé « À l'école du crime ». Ce balado a été conçu, réalisé et animé par le journaliste et ex-policier Stéphane Berthomet, et coproduit par Radio-Canada OHdio et France Culture. Diffusé à l'automne 2022, cet épisode revient sur les rencontres de Normandeau avec Mesrine dans le cadre de son travail universitaire au pénitencier de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul.

Pour Normandeau, la notoriété de Mesrine continue d'alimenter la réflexion criminologique québécoise en soulevant des questions sur la glorification des criminels et les vulnérabilités systémiques qu'elle expose (Couturier, 2023).

Telles explorations de l'héritage de Mesrine à travers le regard de Normandeau offrent un aperçu de l'impressionnante carrière de ce dernier, qui s'étend sur plusieurs décennies et continents. Diplômé de

l'Université de Pennsylvanie (Ph.D.), Normandeau est reconnu internationalement dans les publications *Who's Who in the World* (Londres), *Who's Who in America* (Chicago) et *Who's Who in Canada* (Toronto). Il a été professeur à l'Université de Montréal, où il a également dirigé l'École de criminologie ainsi que le Centre international de criminologie comparée (CICC). Ancien membre du conseil d'administration de l'Association canadienne de justice pénale (ACJP), il assure depuis longtemps la direction de la section des recensions d'ouvrages en langue française de la *Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale* (Ottawa), en plus de contribuer à la *Revue de science criminelle et de droit pénal comparé* (Paris). Auteur ou coauteur de 15 ouvrages et de plus de 500 articles professionnels publiés dans plus de dix pays, M. Normandeau demeure une figure incontournable de l'évolution de la criminologie comparée.

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From Penitentiary to Posterity: Mesrine Through the Lens of Celebrated Quebec Criminologist André Normandeau (PhD)

NANCY WRIGHT, ED.

This article revisits Dr. André Normandeau's encounters with Jacques Mesrine during his 1972 escape from the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Penitentiary. Through interviews and recent media retrospectives, it explores Mesrine's public persona, his challenge to penal institutions, and the enduring criminological insights of Normandeau—an internationally recognized scholar and long-standing contributor to CCJA's Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

In “L'évasion de Jacques Mesrine a marqué l'histoire du pénitencier de Laval,” published in *Le Journal de Montréal* on November 23, 2024, journalist Mathieu-Robert Sauvé speaks with Dr. André Normandeau about his firsthand encounters with the notorious French criminal Jacques Mesrine. The interview revisits Mesrine's dramatic 1972 prison escape and Normandeau's role as a university researcher conducting fieldwork that same year at the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Penitentiary. This exchange not only offers insight into a pivotal moment in Quebec's penal history, but also highlights the

depth and influence of Normandeau's remarkable criminological career—one that continues to shape comparative justice discourse to this day.

In the interview, Normandeau highlights Mesrine's bourgeois background, his carefully crafted public image, and his ability to manipulate both inmates and prison staff—even persuading some guards to protest against the administration. Normandeau further argues that Mesrine's actions, particularly his 1972 escape, challenged the effectiveness of the penal system and sparked debates around prison

security, social reintegration, and the media's role in shaping public perceptions of crime.

In an earlier article titled 'Grands criminels : au-delà de la fascination,' published on January 18, 2023, in UdeMNouvelles, journalist Catherine Couturier reports on a podcast produced by the International Centre for Comparative Criminology (CICC) at the Université de Montréal, in which Normandeau revisits his 1972 encounters with Mesrine. The podcast series, titled *Mesrine : l'orgueil et le sang*, features an episode focused on Professor Emeritus Normandeau, aptly named "À l'école du crime." Conceived, produced, and hosted by journalist and former police officer Stéphane Berthomet, and co-produced by Radio-Canada OHdio and France Culture, the episode aired in fall 2022. In it, Normandeau reflects on his interviews with Mesrine, conducted inside the penitentiary as part of Normandeau's academic research at Saint-Vincent-de-Paul.

For Normandeau, Mesrine's notoriety continues to fuel criminological reflection in Quebec, raising important questions about the glorification of criminals and the systemic vulnerabilities it exposes (Couturier, 2023).

Such explorations of Mesrine's legacy through Normandeau's eyes offers just a glimpse into a distinguished career that spans decades and continents. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (PhD), Normandeau is recognized internationally in *Who's Who in the World* (London), *Who's Who in America* (Chicago), and *Who's Who in Canada* (Toronto). He served as a professor at the Université de Montréal, where he also held the positions of Director of the School of Criminology and Director of the International Centre for Comparative Criminology (CICC). A former board member of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA), Normandeau has long served as Editor of the French-language book review section of *la Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale* (Ottawa), and he also contributes to *la Revue de science criminelle et de droit pénal comparé* (Paris). Author or co-author of 15 books and more than 500 professional articles published in over ten countries, Dr. Normandeau remains a foundational figure in the evolution of comparative criminology.

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CJAO Student Essay Contest Winner Announced

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (CJAO)

This year's CJAO Student Essay Contest invited full-time undergraduate students from Ontario universities and colleges to reflect on how recent shifts in the American political landscape — such as changes in immigration, tariffs, or border policy — may impact Canada's criminal justice system. The winner, [Name of Winner], receives a \$500 cash award and will be published in the Actualités Justice Report 40.3, the national magazine of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association.

Stay tuned for the winning essay and more on CJAO in our upcoming issue!

Bridging the Gap: A Proposed Leadership Training Framework for Civilian Managers of Non-Police Enforcement (NPLE) Personnel

DEAN YOUNG

BA, MPS, Alberta

As municipalities expand their use of Non-Police Law Enforcement (NPLE) personnel—such as bylaw officers, community peace officers, and special constables—civilian managers with little or no law enforcement experience are increasingly responsible for leadership. This trend introduces risks related to legal compliance, operational effectiveness, and public accountability. Drawing on the author's own Alberta-based research (Young, 2022), public safety consultant and criminal justice instructor Dean Young proposes an innovative leadership development framework tailored to municipal managers overseeing NPLE personnel. Young's article outlines training priorities, leadership responsibilities, and educational requirements for both enforcement staff and the civilian leaders who guide them. With practical guidance rooted in three key pillars—organizational policies, strategic hiring, and professional development—Young emphasizes the importance of bridging knowledge gaps to strengthen equitable, community-based safety. His proposed framework responds to a national need for leadership readiness as Canada's reliance on NPLE continues to grow.

INTRODUCTION

Community safety in Canada is undergoing a quiet but significant transformation. There are many exciting developments in how we are growing local government's abilities to provide community standards and safety. The number of Non-police law enforcement (NPLE), such as Bylaw Enforcement Officers, Community Peace Officers, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, and Special Constables, is growing at an unprecedented rate. Such employment provides both a stepping stone into policing careers and a sustainable career path in its own right, an effective early training ground for up-and-coming policing professionals, while adding a layer of community safety to the public that is independent from the contemporary challenges of police staffing.

This trend toward engagement of non-police law enforcement (NPLE), community peace also reflects an evolving shift toward community policing in Canada, where prevention, local engagement, and alternative enforcement models are increasingly emphasized. Alberta's adoption of Community

Safety Teams — such as Edmonton's Community Outreach Transit Team and Calgary's Community Outreach Team — further reflects this shift, integrating Transit Peace Officers with outreach specialists from diverse professional backgrounds. All of these models prioritize proactive support and community engagement and are part of a broader national movement toward community safety in public spaces.

However, a critical challenge is emerging: municipal government managers without law enforcement experience are increasingly put in charge of NPLE personnel, often without a requisite understanding of the complexities of policing, legal frameworks, or court requirements. While these managers may bring administrative expertise, their lack of firsthand knowledge in law enforcement may lead to challenges in decision-making, policy development, and the provision of operational leadership. This disconnect may create unintended risks, from compliance issues to operational inefficiencies, ultimately impacting public safety and the effectiveness of these specialized officers. As local

governments rely on peace officers, who do not have the broader powers of police officers, to bridge gaps in community policing, it is crucial to address this growing concern to ensure informed leadership and effective public safety strategies. This article presents a structured leadership model based on the author's Alberta-based research (Young, 2022), offering practical recommendations to guide hiring, training, and leadership skills for civilian managers of NPLE personnel.

Recent Alberta-based research by the author (Young, 2022) found that over three quarters of NPLE managers lack law enforcement experience. Notably, a quarter of the sample reported that Fire Chiefs were being appointed to manage NPLE personnel, despite differences in operational mandate and enforcement training. This illustrates a need for an applicable leadership framework to be used as a valuable resource by elected officials and chief administrators when hiring or transferring inexperienced managers to oversee NPLE personnel. Understanding the field is essential—both when new managers are onboarded and throughout their professional development, especially if they lack firsthand experience.

While leadership development in Canadian policing is well-established for sworn officers, no national or provincial framework currently exists to guide the onboarding and training of civilian managers tasked with effectively leading NPLE personnel. Drawing from his own Alberta-based research, the author (Young, 2022) proposes a structured, practical leadership framework that may be the first designed specifically for this emerging area of municipal governance. The model addresses the unique challenges of managing NPLE personnel and emphasizes domain familiarization, mentorship, and performance accountability—elements frequently overlooked in current municipal hiring and training practices. As the reliance on NPLE solutions continues to expand across Canada, this contribution highlights the urgent need for informed civilian leadership to ensure effective, lawful, and equitable community safety.

While not the focus of this framework, it is worth briefly noting Alberta's adoption of Community Safety Teams—such as Edmonton's Community Outreach Transit Team and Calgary's Community Outreach Team—as examples of proactive,

What Is Non-Police Law Enforcement (NPLE)?

Non-Police Law Enforcement (NPLE) refers to uniformed personnel who perform law enforcement duties but are not sworn police officers. They typically operate under municipal or provincial authority and address specific public safety, compliance, or community standards roles.

Examples of NPLE personnel include:

- Bylaw Enforcement Officers (e.g., parking, property standards)
- Community Peace Officers (particularly in Alberta)
- Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs) (Ontario and other provinces)
- Transit Enforcement Officers
- Special Constables (e.g., court security, university or transit police)

NPLE roles often involve enforcing local bylaws or provincial statutes, engaging with the public, and supporting community policing efforts—without carrying full police powers.

community-focused models. These teams pair Transit Peace Officers with outreach professionals to address safety and social concerns on public transit. Because these initiatives operate through partnerships with established social agencies and public safety divisions, they may be less exposed to the leadership risks outlined in this article. However, they reflect the same national shift toward hybrid enforcement models, further underscoring the need for informed, multidisciplinary oversight in evolving public safety environments.

Ultimately, this proposed framework not only enhances operational success but also strengthens community safety by ensuring that enforcement actions are carried out with informed leadership, legal precision, integrity, and sensitivity to the needs of the public.

THREE PILLARS OF A PROPOSED LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK FOR CIVILIAN MANAGERS OF NON-POLICE ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL (NPLE)

Leadership frameworks built to serve the purpose of transitioning managers into this field repose on the following three pillars: organizational policies, the job description and interview, and professional development. The overarching needs involve identifying competencies that align with the unique role of leading NPLE staff. Standard leadership competencies required for most manager positions are expected to effectively transfer across roles in municipal government. Modeling servant leadership—by prioritizing the needs of staff, the community, municipal interests, and making decisions based on collective benefit rather than hierarchy or efficiency alone—can be challenging, but it is achievable with a strategic and well-informed leader.

Performance management and accountability are vital to the operational success of any local government. To set a newly appointed manager responsible for leading NPLE personnel up for success, clear performance expectations and measurable goals are also essential. It is equally important that the manager be evaluated fairly on their capabilities and progress. To support the attainment and application of necessary knowledge of the field, roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined in job descriptions along with clear performance expectations.

Standard human resource approaches, such as mentorship programs, typically rely on experienced staff to support the development of new team members. A thoughtful innovation would be to engage NPLE staff in mentoring their new manager. This reverse mentorship can support the manager's understanding of the role and help them conceptualize the law beyond the confines of municipal regulations, fostering deeper knowledge of the spirit and intent behind its enforcement.

Whether this proposed framework is built into the job description or delivered during an in-service training session focussed on field familiarization, it is essential that the following topics be considered for inclusion in roles, responsibilities, and qualifications (education and/or experience): use of force, critical

incident stress management and mental health, and evidentiary and court requirements for a broad spectrum of offences under both municipal and provincial legislation. Non-policing law enforcement personnel are required to undergo specialized training to ensure that the law is enforced legally, judiciously, and equitably, and in a manner that complies with the protections granted under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As such, those responsible for managing these professionals must develop an understanding of the nature of legal authority and its limitations, as well as a working knowledge of court processes — codified or otherwise — and the concept of social justice. Municipal leaders, regardless of their professional background, must adhere to standards that sustain public trust. A municipality that fails to ensure the equitable application of fairness and necessity, or neglects to ensure appropriate leadership of its enforcement personnel, risks eroding the public trust necessary to maintain legitimacy in the eyes of its ratepayers.

Pillar One: Organizational Policies

Organizational policies should clearly define when and how managers are expected to engage NPLE personnel in decision-making processes. Codifying these expectations removes ambiguity and elevates them from informal norm to formalized practice.

Pillar Two: Interviews

The first step in the framework involves identifying competencies in the job description, including those required and those listed as assets. Implementing strengths-based approaches is ideal for any hiring practice, and the selection of managers to lead NPLE personnel is no exception. Behavioural descriptive interviewing techniques provide a strong foundation for assessing relevant strengths in those applying for such positions. Hiring managers with a demonstrated history of collaborative leadership is critical, particularly when overseeing specialized roles beyond their own technical expertise.

Pillar Three: Professional Development

This is where the fundamental skillset must be developed, particularly for those applicants who do not have direct experience. Any leadership training framework for civilian managers, in local government, for NPLE personnel should include the following six key focus areas.

Together, these areas offer a structured approach to building the confidence, credibility, and competence that a manager needs to provide effective leadership for Non-Police Enforcement Teams (NPLE).

KEY COMPETENCY AREAS FOR NEW CIVILIAN MANAGERS

Focus Area One: Understanding the Role of Civilian Managers in Law Enforcement

Civilian leadership in local government requires a strong understanding of ethics, accountability, and transparency to ensure integrity in enforcement practices. Leaders must develop a multidisciplinary perspective on municipal enforcement to effectively manage bylaw officers, peace officers, and special constables.

Key learning objectives include recognizing the responsibilities of leadership in local governance, understanding the role of enforcement personnel, and implementing strategies for effective service delivery. By fostering ethical decision-making and operational efficiency, leaders can enhance public trust and community safety.

Focus Area Two: Law Enforcement Operations and Organizational Structure

Understanding the distinctions between bylaw enforcement officers, peace officers, and special constables is essential for effective municipal leadership. Each role has unique legal authority, jurisdiction, and limitations that shape its responsibilities within the community. Leaders must also recognize how enforcement teams collaborate with municipal departments and external agencies to ensure coordinated and efficient service delivery.

Key learning objectives include differentiating these roles, comprehending their legal frameworks, and fostering interagency cooperation to enhance public safety and compliance.

Focus Area Three: Legal and Policy Frameworks for Local Enforcement Management

Effective municipal leadership requires a thorough understanding of the regulations governing law enforcement personnel at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels. Leaders must be familiar with use-of-force policies, public complaint processes, and officer accountability to ensure ethical and lawful

enforcement practices. Additionally, compliance with workplace safety, human rights, and labour laws is essential in maintaining a fair and professional work environment.

Key learning objectives include navigating regulatory frameworks, upholding accountability standards, and ensuring legal compliance to support effective and responsible enforcement operations.

Focus Area Four: Leadership and Effective Team Management

Effective leadership in municipal enforcement requires strong management skills to build credibility as a non-law enforcement leader. Developing strategies to motivate and manage enforcement personnel is essential for maintaining morale and operational efficiency. Leaders must also implement effective performance evaluation methods, address disciplinary issues, and resolve conflicts to ensure a professional and accountable workforce.

Key learning objectives include establishing leadership credibility, fostering team motivation, and applying best practices in personnel management to enhance enforcement effectiveness.

Focus Area Five: Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Strong communication skills are essential for municipal enforcement leaders to effectively engage with officers, municipal leadership, and the public. Leaders must navigate difficult conversations, address workplace culture challenges, and foster a positive work environment. Additionally, managing public expectations and responding to citizen complaints with transparency and professionalism is critical to maintaining public trust.

Key learning objectives include developing clear and effective communication strategies, handling workplace challenges, and ensuring responsive and accountable interactions with the community.

Focus Area Six: Risk Management and Decision-Making in Enforcement Leadership

Municipal enforcement leaders must be skilled in identifying and mitigating operational risks to ensure safety and efficiency. Managing high-stress situations and emergency responses requires quick decision-

making and strategic coordination. Additionally, balancing enforcement priorities with community concerns is essential for maintaining public trust and fostering positive relationships.

Key learning objectives include conducting risk assessments, managing crises, and aligning enforcement strategies with community needs to promote effective and responsible service delivery.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as local governments increasingly rely on non-police law enforcement personnel (NPLE) to maintain public safety, it is crucial that their management be entrusted to leaders who possess both administrative acumen and a foundational understanding of the complexities of law enforcement. The leadership framework introduced in this article, grounded in the author's original research conducted in Alberta, provides a robust approach to ensuring that civilian managers are well-prepared to guide NPLE personnel.

By emphasizing field familiarization, competency development, and comprehension of the spirit—as well as the letter—of the law, local governments can better equip their civilian managers to oversee NPLE personnel effectively, safeguarding public trust and promoting efficient, equitable law enforcement practices.

Ultimately, the author's innovative framework not only enhances the operational effectiveness of local enforcement teams but also supports the legitimacy of municipal governance by ensuring that enforcement actions are carried out with legal precision, ethical leadership, and a deep understanding of community needs. As the field of non-police law enforcement continues to expand in Canada, so too must the leadership capacity of those entrusted to guide it.

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RÉSUMÉ

Bridging the Gap: A Proposed Leadership Training Framework for Civilian Managers of Non-Police Enforcement (NPLE) Personnel

DEAN YOUNG

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Alors que les municipalités élargissent leur recours au personnel d'application de la loi non policier (ALNP)—comme les agents de réglementation, les agents de la paix communautaires et les constables spéciaux—des gestionnaires civils non policiers sans expérience en matière d'application de la loi sont de plus en plus chargés de leur direction. Cette tendance comporte des risques liés à la conformité juridique, à l'efficacité opérationnelle et à la reddition de comptes. S'appuyant sur sa propre recherche menée en Alberta, le chargé de cours en sécurité publique, Dean Young, propose un cadre innovant de développement du leadership adapté aux gestionnaires municipaux responsables du personnel ALNP. L'article précise les exigences en matière de formation, de responsabilités et d'éducation. Fondé sur trois piliers—politiques organisationnelles, embauche stratégique, et perfectionnement professionnel—le cadre vise à combler les lacunes de connaissances des gestionnaires civils non-policiers pour renforcer une sécurité communautaire équitable. Il répond à un besoin national croissant en matière de leadership civil dans ce domaine.

Trafficking Across the 49th Parallel: How the U.S. Trade War Could Worsen Human Exploitation

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There is currently considerable discourse around the potential implications of the ‘trade war’ between the United States and Canada. Much of the discussion from the Canadian side focusses on how to protect our sovereignty and diplomatically respond to the Trump administration’s tactics and overtures towards Canada. This article explores the potential impact of the trade war on the extent and nature of human trafficking in Canada—with effects originating from the other side of the 49th parallel. It argues that increased economic instability, social exclusion, and erosion of protection for marginalized groups in the U.S. may create fertile conditions for trafficking networks to exploit vulnerabilities. Several suggestions are offered to help minimize this and related problems, including increased cross-border collaboration, public awareness campaigns, and demand-reduction strategies targeting both labour and sex trafficking. The article ultimately warns that without a proactive, multi-sectoral response, Canada may face a rise in organized cross-border trafficking operations from the United States.

Although the practice of slavery dates to ancient times, today trafficking in persons (TIP) or ‘modern-day slavery’ has garnered considerable social, media, and academic attention ever since the signing of what is commonly referred to as the United Nations ‘Palermo Protocol’¹ in November 2000. Today, the Protocol stands as a beacon of action and hope for combatting TIP. Canada was among the first countries to ratify the Protocol in 2002, whereas the United States ratified it in October 2005.

Since ratifying the Protocol, both countries have taken numerous measures to combat TIP within their own sovereign borders—referred to as domestic trafficking—and across international borders, commonly classified as transnational crime. It is widely acknowledged that human trafficking is a significant issue globally (an estimated 27 million people), including in Canada and the United States. However, as an underground crime, human trafficking is inherently difficult to identify, track, and prosecute, even though both countries have allocated considerable resources to protect victims

of trafficking, prosecute traffickers, promote prevention through a host of awareness programs², and build partnerships to combat trafficking of all forms more effectively. Furthermore, human trafficking in both countries primarily involves forced labour and sex trafficking, among other forms.

Unlike the crime of immigrant smuggling (i.e., illegal/undocumented immigration) — which involves a degree of consent by the individuals being illegally transported across international borders in search of a perceived opportunity for a ‘better quality of life’ (e.g., employment, enhanced freedom, etc.) — human trafficking is the exploitative movement of individuals, within a country or across borders, for the financial gain of the trafficker. Because human trafficking does not involve the consent of the person being trafficked, it is characterized by the transportation and exploitation of individuals through various means of coercion, deception, and/or threats (see About Human Trafficking, Public Safety Canada, 2025).

¹. Known as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Protocol is part of the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
². In 2021, Public Safety Canada launched a national campaign (“It’s not what it seems”) to help raise awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking in Canada. The National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking also undertook various prevention initiatives during its initial mandate from 2019 to 2024.

THE 'HIDDEN' CONSEQUENCE OF THE US-CANADA 'TRADE WAR'

With the recent discord between the United States and its trade partners—particularly Canada—the economic and social consequences of a potentially escalating trade war are already taking shape. While much of the attention remains on tariffs³, job losses, social exclusion, and inflation, one critical issue remains under the radar of both countries: the potential rise in human sex trafficking and forced labour exploitation. A downturn in industries reliant on cross-border trade—such as auto manufacturing factories, agriculture, and service sectors, which often provide low-paying jobs and rely on transient workers—could create fertile ground for traffickers to exploit growing economic and social vulnerabilities. As Canada and the United States navigate the fallout of shifting trade policies, the heightened risk of trafficking along and beyond the 49th parallel demands urgent attention from policymakers, law enforcement, and human rights advocates.

MORE THAN JUST 'MORAL PANIC'?⁴

In an era where populism and 'woke' are part of the social discourse, moral panic refers to instances where public anxiety arises in response to an actual or perceived threat to a society's moral values or well-being—such as the current tensions emerging south of the 49th parallel, a boundary that dates back to the Treaty of Paris in 1783 which attempted to dictate the boundaries between the newly formed United States and then British North America – later to become Canada. After several territorial domain disputes and the United States' failed attempt to invade and conquer Canada (War of 1812), the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 played a key role in settling the border controversies between the two countries (Greenspan, 2012).

While it is beyond the scope of this article to debate the potential fallout of the trade war between Canada and the United States, our existing understanding of the triggers for human trafficking (e.g., gender discrimination, migrant status, lifestyle discrimination, poverty, lack of rights awareness, etc. [see Who does..., Public Safety Canada, 2025]), suggests that the current social, economic, and political climate between the two countries places Canada at risk of an increase in transnational human

trafficking coming from the United States. The U.S. administration continues targeting various groups and sectors already vulnerable due to their situation, which is being further exacerbated.

For example, recent decisions and actions taken by the US government have eroded critical services for already marginalized communities that were at risk of harm. Given the withdrawal of foreign aid to victims of violence (e.g., victims of trafficking), the mass deportation—an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants, according to Coyne (2025)—of non-US residents and temporary foreign workers without legal permits, and drastic cuts to research and support services for minorities and marginalized groups in the United States, the risk of 'push-pull' effect on these targeted groups has grown exponentially. As Coyne (2025) recently noted in his *Globe and Mail* article, a significant number of refugees will inevitably try to reach Canada (e.g., people fleeing conflict in the Middle East; those (illegally) leaving African countries such as Mali, Guinea, Tunisia, and Sudan due to hardship; or the flood of illegal/undocumented immigrants from Myanmar into India, among other global regions).

It is well documented in the human trafficking literature that trafficking is a global phenomenon and that based on 'perceived' opportunity, or the lack thereof, countries are commonly categorized as: 1) countries of origin, where victims of trafficking originate (e.g., Afghanistan, Belarus, Niger, Sierra Leone, etc. [Global Report..., 2009]); 2) countries of transit, which act as intermediaries as victims are transported; and (3) destination countries. According to national reports and the annual Global Reports on Trafficking in Persons, Canada has been described as a destination country—a "land of opportunity."

Research has shown that whether they are illegal or undocumented immigrants (e.g., foreign U.S. labourers) fleeing the harmful federal actions of the U.S. government, or individuals being trafficked to Canada—where legal scrutiny is less discriminatory—the risk of increased human exploitation is very real. Given the clandestine nature of human trafficking, there are no reliable statistics on how many cross-border trafficking cases happen yearly, but in 2022, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reported

3. See Switzer (2025) for a breakdown of the tariff war.

4. A concept termed by the South African sociologist Stanley Cohen (1942-2013) to describe a mass expression of concern and fear over something or someone perceived to threaten society's norms and values (Cohen, 1972).

over 50,000 signals related to human trafficking in the U.S⁵. As Heys (2023), among others, has observed, when economic, cultural, and social ‘conflict’ exists, it is usually accompanied by a rise in the trafficking of human beings (THB). Given the pending cuts to various sectors of the job market in the United States, there is a growing risk that some individuals may become targets for smuggling and human trafficking, as a sudden loss of security and income can make them more vulnerable. For example, it is well-documented that university students in Southeast Asia are often naively recruited and exploited to work in various settings, some of which are illegal (Tien, 2019; Liu, 2025).

As much as human trafficking is a crime rooted in the exploitation of human beings, it is ultimately an economic crime and a gross violation of human rights. Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, and trafficking for forced labour is similarly profitable for those who prey on marginalized and vulnerable populations. Unfortunately, the current situation in the United States appears to be a ‘ticking time bomb’ for further enabling THB.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE WITHIN AN ALREADY GRIEVOUS PROBLEM

Although official statistics on the extent of human trafficking are questionable at best due to the clandestine nature of the crime, the Global Slavery Index estimates that approximately 17,000 people are “living in modern slavery in Canada.” However, between 2010 and 2020, police reported only 2,977 incidents of human trafficking, and only a handful of traffickers were convicted (*Human Trafficking in Canada*, n.d.). From a criminological perspective (e.g., Routine Activities Theory), human trafficking presents a considerable opportunity for profiting financially, a nominal risk of detection, and an even lower likelihood of prosecution.

Even though Canada has invested considerable resources in supporting local and national initiatives to combat human trafficking — such as the National Centre to Combat Human Trafficking introduced specific legislation (i.e., sec. 279.01 of the *Criminal Code*) — and that there is now an extensive number of NGOs dedicated to assisting victims, the

number of victims has not decreased, nor have the prosecution rates improved (Trafficking in Persons, 2023)⁶.

Because of persistent gaps in Canada’s capacity to address the problem effectively (see Winterdyk & Ford, 2024), combined with its direct proximity to the United States, ongoing trade disputes, and the threat of removing illegal immigrants or disrupting the flow of undocumented or trafficked individuals, the rising trend of cross-border trafficking poses a serious risk for Canada. Therefore, Canada must take immediate steps to safeguard against yet another ‘fallout’ of the U.S. trade war.

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN/SHOULD BE DONE?

There is no simple response protocol to counter the risk of cross-border human trafficking between the United States and Canada. Given the complexity and nuances of human trafficking, a multi-faceted approach will be necessary. Several strategies should be considered that address not only the traffickers but also the buyers.

Awareness Campaigns: Educating Canadians, frontline CBSA workers, and anti-trafficking organizations about the risks and signs of trafficking that may emerge from the United States. Targeted public campaigns and community programs can shift societal awareness and attitudes.

Cross-Border Collaboration: Canadian and American border security officials must collaborate to share intelligence, monitor borders, and use technology to identify incidents of HT, assist victims, and take down traffickers and their networks. Strengthening cross-border collaboration can ensure consistent enforcement of anti-trafficking laws and reduce safe havens for traffickers entering Canada.

Demand reduction: Human trafficking is a form of economic crime. By reducing the demand for exploitative labour or commercial sex, the market for trafficked individuals becomes less profitable. Educating consumers about the realities of trafficking can lead to boycotts of products or services linked to exploitation, pressuring businesses to adopt ethical practices. Laws that penalize those

5. Given the dark figure of human trafficking, the number is likely (significantly) higher.

6. Section 118 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)*, introduced in 2002, criminalizes the cross-border (transnational) trafficking of one or more persons through abduction, fraud, deception, and threatened or actual use of force or coercion.

who knowingly benefit from trafficked labor or services can also deter demand. For example, the "Swedish model" (also known as the Equality Model or Nordic Model) criminalizes the purchase of sex, thereby reducing the demand for sex trafficking.

When implemented together (i.e., partnership and participation), these measures can strengthen Canada's efforts to reduce the number of people trafficked into our country from the United States.

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RÉSUMÉ

Trafficking Across the 49th Parallel: How the U.S. Trade War Could Worsen Human Exploitation

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Un débat important se déroule actuellement sur les répercussions possibles de la « guerre commerciale » entre les États-Unis et le Canada. Du côté canadien, une grande partie de la discussion porte sur la manière de protéger notre souveraineté et de réagir de façon diplomatique aux tactiques et aux ouvertures de l'administration Trump envers le Canada. Cet article explore les effets potentiels de cette « guerre commerciale » sur l'ampleur et la nature de la traite des personnes au Canada, en examinant la situation du côté américain du 49e parallèle. Il avance que l'instabilité économique croissante, l'exclusion sociale et le recul des protections offertes aux groupes marginalisés aux États-Unis pourraient créer des conditions propices à l'exploitation des vulnérabilités par les réseaux de traite. Plusieurs mesures sont proposées pour atténuer ces risques : renforcer la collaboration transfrontalière, sensibiliser le public et réduire la demande liée à la traite, tant pour le travail forcé que pour l'exploitation sexuelle. L'article conclut qu'en l'absence d'une réponse proactive et concertée, le Canada pourrait voir une hausse de la traite organisée en provenance des États-Unis.



Locked Doors, Open Risks: The Battle for Prison Security

LOREN FREDERICKSON

Alberta

Canada's prisons face rising threats — from drone-smuggled contraband and gang violence to cyber risks and staffing shortages — outpacing outdated, punitive infrastructure. Over 60% of federal facilities predate 1980 and lack the tools to support modern security or rehabilitation. While technologies like AI surveillance and body scanners offer promise, adoption is inconsistent. Indigenous overrepresentation and geographic disparities further complicate reforms. Nordic-inspired models remain limited amid legal and systemic barriers. Without targeted investment in infrastructure, staffing, and innovation, Canada risks falling behind in delivering safe, effective, and humane corrections. A balanced, modernized approach is urgently needed to meet today's evolving correctional challenges.

INTRODUCTION

The clang of a steel door echoes down the corridor, a sound that signals both control and the ever-present possibility of chaos. Inside Canada's correctional institutions, the challenge is not just keeping prisoners in—it's keeping threats out. Smuggled drugs fuel addiction, affecting behaviour, gang rivalries add fear and turn cells into battlegrounds, and technology opens new doors for crime behind bars. Every facility is a high-stakes chessboard where correctional personnel must stay one step ahead. But as threats evolve, are our prisons truly prepared to handle what's coming next?

PERSISTENT THREATS BEHIND THE WALLS

Despite extensive security protocols, correctional facilities face persistent threats. Contraband smuggling is an ongoing battle, with illicit drugs, weapons, and mobile phones making their way inside through drones, corrupt staff, volunteers, and visitors. In 2022 alone, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) reported 2,143 drug seizures and 712 cell phones seized across federal institutions. Drone-related incidents nearly tripled, rising from 266 in 2020–21 to 619 in 2022–23 (CSC, 2023).

Pre-trial detention facilities face a unique challenge where inmates released on bail conceal contraband internally, then deliberately breach their conditions to return. While body scanners and searches help, inmates continuously adapt their methods, forcing

staff to evolve detection techniques in a constant cat-and-mouse game.

Gang activity fuels violence and a demand for weapons, turning prisons into dangerous, self-contained crime syndicates. Every available resource is exploited, from the telephone system to food distribution. Vulnerable inmates are often extorted or coerced, driving up the demand for weapons and contributing to a cycle of fear and violence. Public Safety Canada (2020–21 data) reports that over 20% of federal inmates are affiliated with known gangs.

Escapes, though rare, still occur due to weak perimeter security, human error, or outdated infrastructure. Drones are a growing concern, used to deliver contraband across security barriers with precision. While some institutions deploy counter-drone technology, many lack the funding for such systems.

Cybersecurity threats are also on the rise. Earlier (internal) audits reportedly identified significant vulnerabilities in CSC's outdated digital infrastructure, with 38% of prison IT systems operating on unsupported software at that time, highlighting the vulnerability of archaic systems. Provincial systems are likely to have even greater opportunities for improvement.

Staffing also remains a foundational issue. High turnover, burnout, and undertraining have created

systemic vulnerabilities. Union and media estimates in 2023 reportedly placed vacancy rates between 12–15%, with some institutions operating below 60% of their required staff levels. Pay increases for correctional officers are often met with political resistance, further discouraging recruitment and retention. Training standards are federally regulated within CSC, but variability occurs across provincial/territorial systems outside the federal mandate with some officers receiving comprehensive training and others being given only a cursory orientation before reporting for duty.

Finally, separating high-risk and violent offenders from general populations is seen as essential, but controversial. Critics often equate it with punitive solitary confinement, complicating the implementation of targeted segregation policies. Nonetheless, controlled separation remains a necessary strategy to protect both staff and vulnerable inmates. The key lies in finding the right balance between necessary confinement and practices that may invite ethical or legal challenges.

SMART SECURITY: WHAT'S WORKING—AND WHAT ISN'T

Some correctional institutions have implemented advanced security technologies. Body scanners, drone detection systems, and rigorous search procedures have been effective in helping to reduce contraband. High-definition surveillance systems and AI-powered monitoring tools help detect suspicious behavior in real time. Enhanced perimeter security—including motion sensors and microwave countermeasures—have been installed in a limited number of facilities.

Information sharing among law enforcement agencies has also improved gang management in some jurisdictions, while strategic separation of high-risk inmates has helped curb in-prison violence. Predictive analytics is also emerging as a tool to anticipate potential incidents based on behavior modeling, though adoption remains uneven across many provinces.

Biometric security technologies such as facial recognition and retina scans are being tested in select locations. However, widespread

implementation is limited by privacy concerns, cost, and legal scrutiny.

WHAT SETS CANADA APART

Canada's correctional system has structural, demographic, and legal distinctions that complicate direct comparisons to other models, such as those in Nordic countries. The system here is divided between federal and provincial/territorial institutions, leading to wide variation in funding, training, and operational policies. Over 60% of federal prisons were built before 1980, with many lacking the modern infrastructure to support the open-concept designs proving successful in Nordic minimum-security facilities (Humphreys, 2023), let alone advanced security systems.

Canada's geographic vastness creates logistical difficulties in staffing and supply chains, especially for northern or remote facilities. Additionally, Indigenous men—who make up only 5% of the national population—represent over 30% of the federal male prison population, while Indigenous women comprise a staggering 50% of females in federal custody (OCI, 2023). This creates a unique cultural dynamic that influences correctional policy and programming.

Canadian prisons operate under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which imposes strict standards on confinement conditions, healthcare access, and due process. These protections have prompted reforms such as replacing solitary confinement with Structured Intervention Units (SIUs), which now occupy the same spaces as solitary did and are facing serious implementation concerns (IAP, 2023), introducing further operational complexity.

Architecturally, most Canadian facilities are still based on punitive models, unlike the Nordic emphasis on rehabilitation through open-concept, humane design. Canada's attempts to modernize have been limited to a few institutions and remain experimental in scope only.

REDEFINING PRISON SECURITY FOR TOMORROW

The future of correctional institutions is not just about physical security—it's also about redefining

the relationship between inmates and the outside world. More facilities are moving toward increased community contact, with open visits replacing traditional glass partitions when security levels permit. Virtual visitation through tablets is expanding, offering inmates greater access to family and support networks.

Newer prison designs are slowly incorporating natural materials and more humane architectural features. This evolution is influenced by Nordic correctional models, which promote normalization of prison life to aid reintegration. However, Canada's justice system, crime trends, and social structure differ significantly from many of these countries. Critics are concerned that softer environments could be exploited by organized crime and repeat offenders.

To compensate for the reduction in physical security controls, modern correctional facilities are placing greater reliance on technology-driven solutions. AI-driven surveillance, biometric access systems, and real-time threat detection algorithms help maintain order while allowing for a less restrictive environment. Cutting-edge scanners, chemical detection devices, and RFID tracking mitigate contraband risks. Automated drone monitoring and sensor-driven perimeter defenses provide additional layers of security without the need for heavy fortifications. These advancements reflect a growing reliance on security technology as a force multiplier, allowing institutions to embrace more rehabilitative models without compromising safety.

This evolution reflects an ongoing pendulum swing in corrections policy. Systems oscillate between rehabilitative ideals and strict security enforcement. Loosening controls too much can lead to exploitation; tightening them excessively invites criticism for being overly punitive. The challenge lies in striking a functional balance that supports both safety and rehabilitation.

CONCLUSION

Prison security is a constantly shifting landscape, requiring a balance of strict enforcement, technological innovation, and proactive policy development. Many correctional facilities—particularly older ones—are operating with outdated infrastructure and limited budgets, and are struggling to keep up with evolving threats.

As contraband networks become more sophisticated and inmate behavior more unpredictable, the gap between well-resourced and underfunded institutions will continue to widen. Without strategic investment in technology, training, staffing, and infrastructure, Canada's Correctional system risks falling behind in its mandate to ensure safety and order.

At the same time, the push toward more humane, rehabilitative practices must be approached with realism and caution. Security and rehabilitation must not be seen as opposing forces but as complementary pillars of a modern correctional system.

As the judicial landscape itself continues to evolve, the key to future success will lie in adaptability—ensuring that security strategies within Correctional facilities remain flexible enough to address emerging threats while upholding a system that is fair, effective, and sustainable for both staff and inmates.

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RÉSUMÉ

Locked Doors, Open Risks: The Battle for Prison Security

LOREN FREDERICKSON

Les prisons canadiennes sont confrontées à des menaces croissantes : contrebande, violence liée aux gangs, cyberrisques et pénurie de personnel. Ces défis dépassent une infrastructure punitive désormais obsolète. Plus de 60 % des établissements fédéraux datent d'avant 1980 et ne répondent plus aux besoins actuels en matière de sécurité ou de réinsertion. Les technologies comme l'IA et les scanners corporels ont du potentiel, mais leur adoption reste inégale. La surreprésentation autochtone et les inégalités régionales compliquent les réformes. Quant aux modèles nordiques, leur application demeure limitée, freinée par des obstacles juridiques et systémiques. Sans investissements ciblés, le Canada risque de régresser en matière de services correctionnels sûrs, efficaces et humains. Une approche modernisée et équilibrée s'impose d'urgence pour relever les défis correctionnels d'aujourd'hui.

Book Release ♦ Staging Prison Theatre in Canada — Highlighting the Significance of William Head on Stage (WHoS)

THANA RIDHA AND SYLVIE FRIGON¹

*The recently released book **Staging Prison Theatre in Canada** explores the transformative power of William Head on Stage (WHoS), the only inmate-run prison theatre program in Canada. Through voices of incarcerated men, authors Thana Ridha and Sylvie Frigon examine how WHoS fosters agency, creativity, and rehabilitation—offering criminologists and justice professionals new insights into the role of arts-based initiatives behind bars.*

For over 40 years, William Head on Stage (WHoS) has operated as a long-standing prison art initiative and the only inmate-run prison theatre program in Canada. Situated in William Head Institution, British Columbia, WHoS has devised more than fifty-six theatre productions for the public.

As an inmate-run initiative, WHoS functions as a not-for-profit society and theatre company that the incarcerated men themselves operate. Managed uniquely in this way, the men of WHoS are involved in all facets of the company's functioning and creative processes. This includes taking on the role of actors, costume designers, set builders/designers, and even writers. Each year, WHoS presents about 14 shows whereby the public has the exclusive and unique opportunity to purchase tickets, come into the prison, and experience the captivating performances.

Despite its renowned and long-standing operation, WHoS and other arts-based initiatives have largely been left in the shadows of research. *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada* (Ridha & Frigon, 2025) delves into the story of WHoS through the voices of the men involved, offering a unique criminological examination of their experiences. The analysis explores how WHoS offers an alternative space to the structural and social context of prison as well



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¹ The authors discuss their book *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada*. (Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa Press, 2025. Cover image: Jam Hamidi: **Thana Ridha** holds a master's degree in criminology from the University of Ottawa and has contributed to various correctional initiatives and research projects across Canada. **Sylvie Frigon (PhD)** is a professor of Criminology and Vice-Dean of Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa.

as to the emotional realities of incarceration. By unlocking participants' capacities and skills, building confidence, and fostering a sense of agency, WHoS is more than just theatre – it is a transformative space, offering the men opportunities to re-imagine themselves and build meaningful connections both inside and outside of prison. By examining the impact of WHoS on the lives of criminalized individuals, this book offers an insightful and academic perspective on the power of prison theatre.

Criminologists Thana Ridha and Sylvie Frigon underscore the significance of arts-based initiatives like WHoS and offer an analysis that anchors its relevance in the field of criminology. *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada* presents valuable insights for correctional administrators, criminologists, theatre practitioners, and anyone interested in the role of the arts in prison.

RÉSUMÉ

Book Release: *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada* — Highlighting the Transformative Power of William Head on Stage (WHoS)

THANA RIDHA ET SYLVIE FRIGON

Le livre *Staging Prison Theatre in Canada* explore le pouvoir transformateur de la troupe de William Head on Stage (WHoS), le seul théâtre carcéral autogéré au Canada. À travers les voix d'hommes incarcérés, les autrices Thana Ridha et Sylvie Frigon examinent comment WHoS stimule l'autonomie, la créativité, la confiance en soi et la réinsertion sociale—offrant aux criminologues et aux professionnels de la justice de nouvelles perspectives sur les initiatives artistiques en milieu carcéral.

Ghost Guns Under the Microscope: New Forensic Techniques for Tracing 3D-Printed Firearms

GORDY HA¹

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This article presents findings from Gordy Ha's 2024 Honours thesis in Criminal Justice at Mount Royal University—a preliminary study offering tools for investigating 3D-printed firearms, or "ghost guns." Ha designed and conducted two novel experiments using an FDM 3D printer. The first introduces a backlighting method that appears to improve fingerprint clarity on 3D-printed plastic. Black's (2019) foundational work identified fingerprint distortion on 3D-printed surfaces. Building on this, Ha (2024) shows how clarity varies with surface placement and object orientation. The second experiment shows that microscopic tool marks from a printer's build plate can transfer to printed firearm parts—functioning like forensic "fingerprints" that may help identify the source printer. While similar transfer has been observed on non-firearm 3D-printed objects, this study applies the concept specifically to firearm components. The findings are repeatable, the techniques novel, but the research is small in scale and should be viewed as exploratory. Still, it proposes a low-cost, accessible approach that could assist local investigations—and, with further validation, may offer broader forensic applications. Further research will be essential to strengthen and assess these techniques.

INTRODUCTION

Often sensationalized as "ghost guns," 3D-printed firearms are less a threat to be feared than a technology to be understood. Much public concern stems from the difficulty in tracing their origins—hence the label. This misunderstanding has also filtered into academic discourse, prompting calls for more forensic research into 3D-printed firearms (Europol, 2022, cited in Pavlovich, 2023). In response to this gap, my recent Honours thesis (Ha, 2023) presents exploratory and novel findings and techniques that could inform future research in this emerging field. This article is a condensed version of my thesis.

FINGERPRINT DEVELOPMENT ON 3D-PRINTED OBJECTS

Although the literature on fingerprint development on 3D-printed objects is limited, Black et al. (2019) observed that fingerprints often appear distorted due to the visible ridges on the top surface of printed items. Their study provides valuable insight but

focuses primarily on prints formed along the object's sides—aligned with the z-axis in 3D printing. A knowledge gap remains regarding object orientation and how axis alignment influences fingerprint clarity. Ha's (2024) study fills a key gap in Black's (2019) research by experimentally examining how fingerprint clarity varies with object orientation and surface placement on 3D-printed materials.

EXPERIMENT 1: HOW FINGERPRINTS FORM ON DIFFERENT SURFACES OF 3D-PRINTED OBJECTS HA (2024)

In his Honours thesis research study, Ha (2024) found that the bottom of a 3D-printed object produced better fingerprint detail due to the flat surface formed when in contact with the 3D-printer build plate. Because the bottom is printed directly against this smooth, solid surface, it provides the best conditions for developing clear fingerprint images. Conversely, fingerprints on the top layer of a 3D-printed object tend to be distorted.

1. I acknowledge Mount Royal University's Dr. J. Holmgren, whose supervision and unwavering guidance were essential not only to the completion of my honours thesis (Ha, 2024) but to this article as well. Dr. J. Winterdyk provided early encouragement that helped me believe I could contribute to an understudied area of research, and he directed me to the CCJA for publication. Justice Report Editor-in-Chief Nancy Wright offered editorial guidance and support in finalizing this condensed article. Lia Hyland, a close friend, offered personal support during a difficult period while I was writing my thesis. Her support and encouragement helped me persevere and complete the work.

To test this, three plastic (aka thermoplastic polymer) cubes measuring 40 by 40 by 40 millimetres were printed using an Ender-3 3D printer. All three cubes were made from the same batch of plastic 1.75 mm PLA PRO filament (a modified form of PLA plastic) made by eSun™—to ensure consistency. To prepare the 3D models for printing, Ha used free slicing software, called Ultimaker Cura, which converts digital designs into instructions that the 3D-printer can understand.

After printing, the three cubes were labelled A, B, and C. Photos of each cube were taken using an iPhone XR, lit with a regular 8.5W LED bulb. The cubes were carefully removed from the build plate using a scraper, making sure neither the top nor the bottom was touched during handling. Ha used a small handheld microscope (Pocket Micro™, 20x-60x zoom) to examine and capture high-resolution images of each surface.

To deposit fingerprints, Ha rubbed his thumb across his forehead three times, then firmly pressed it onto the bottom surface of the first cube. He repeated the process on the top surface using the same thumb and followed the same steps for the remaining two cubes. To make the fingerprints visible, he used bichromatic fingerprint powder—available from online forensic supply stores) applied with a fine fingerprint brush. As shown in Figures 1 and 2 images of the three cubes were taken before the fingerprints appeared. After fingerprint development, Ha took additional images of the fingerprints on each of the three cubes with the aid of the Pocket Micro™ microscope.

As a final step in Experiment 1, Ha introduced a novel method to enhance the clarity of fingerprint images. The setup involves securing the 3D-printed object in place using a clamp, shining a standard 8.5W LED light through the object, and capturing the image using a smartphone camera positioned on the opposite side. This process is illustrated in Figure 3. Because the plastic material allows light to pass through, the setup improved the visibility of fingerprint detail on all three cubes. Figures 4 and 5 show the top and bottom surfaces of the cubes after this imaging process, clearly demonstrating the improvement in clarity. Although preliminary, these results suggest that low-cost imaging enhancements may improve forensic analysis of plastic surfaces. To the author's knowledge, this imaging technique

has not been previously applied to fingerprint development on 3D-printed objects, marking it as a novel contribution. Each image was then edited in the iPhone photo app by reducing brightness to -100. Building on his work with fingerprint development, Ha's second experiment examined how tool marks left by a printer can help identify the source of 3D-printed firearms. It's important to note that this test was conducted on uniform polymer cubes, not firearm-shaped components, and used bichromatic fingerprint powder, which may differ from standard forensic practice.

EXPERIMENT 2: TRACING 3D-PRINTERS THROUGH TOOL MARKS LEFT ON FIREARMS²

While research on tool marks is still emerging, a few recent studies have explored how printer-specific markings might transfer onto printed objects. Building on this early work—and acknowledging that the body of research on 3D-printed firearms remains limited—this second experiment explores a promising new method for tracing those marks back to the specific printer that produced them. Ha's experiment demonstrates a reliable and replicable technique for tracing multiple 3D-printed firearms to a potential source printer.

To test this, Ha used an Ender-3 3D Printer and Ultimaker Cura software using black ERYONE PLA filament. Two mock replica firearms were then printed using the same black filament, and a third



Figure 1: Top surfaces of 3D-printed cubes photographed before fingerprint development. Source: Figure 3 in Ha (2024).



Figure 2: Bottom surfaces of 3D-printed cubes photographed before fingerprint development. Source: Figure 5 in Ha (2024).

was printed using pink PLA PRO filament. All models were produced using Glock-style airsoft lower, a digital file freely available on Thingiverse.

Once printing was completed, Ha photographed the build plate and each of the printed models. The mock firearms were labelled A, B, and C. He then photographed the surface areas that had made contact with the build plate. A second round of photographs was taken using a handheld microscope (Pocket Micro™ 20x-60x LED Lit zoom Lightweight Pocket Microscope, Carson Optical, Inc). These results were obtained using PLA-based plastics and simplified models rather than fully shaped firearm parts, which may influence the consistency and transferability of tool marks in real-world applications.

3D-PRINTER BUILD PLATE PROPERTIES

Before Ha's study, the build plate of the 3D printer used had already withstood over two thousand hours of printing. During that time unique tool markings appeared due to slight calibration issues. For example, the basic method of calibrating a 3D-printer—slipping a piece of standard A4 printer paper between the nozzle and the build plate—can cause minor errors due to the thinness of A4 paper. Combined with slight manufacturing defects,

these discrepancies can cause the nozzle to gouge the build plate in certain spots, leaving consistent striation patterns.

As shown in Figures 6-9, causing unique tool markings, though invisible to the naked eye, form part of a 3D printer's unique 'fingerprint' or 'signature'. In Ha's study, these markings consistently transferred to the parts of a 3D-printed firearm that came into contact with the build plate during printing.

THE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING HA'S EXPERIMENT

Ha (2024) made four main assumptions when designing this study. While these assumptions were reasonable within the scope of an undergraduate project, future studies should test their validity across a wider range of contexts and printer models.

RESULTS OF BUILD PLATE TOOL MARKS TRANSFERRED TO MOCK FIREARMS

As shown in Figure 9, images of O-1 and O-2 showed distinct striation lines caused by nozzle calibration issues. Images from C-1 and C-2 also showed the same striation lines. This evidence confirms the study's initial hypothesis: unique tool marks from a build plate can transfer onto 3D-printed objects.

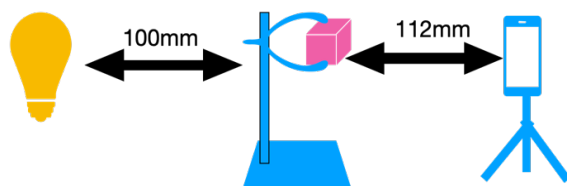


Figure 3: Illustration of a novel fingerprint imaging technique. Source: Figure 9 in Ha (2024).

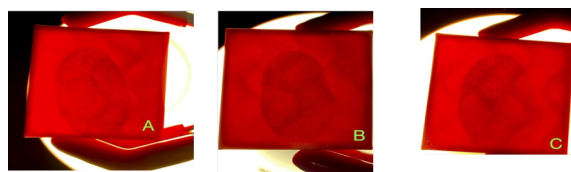


Figure 4: Top surfaces of 3D-printed cubes after fingerprint imaging using a novel lighting technique. Source: Figure 10 in Ha (2024).

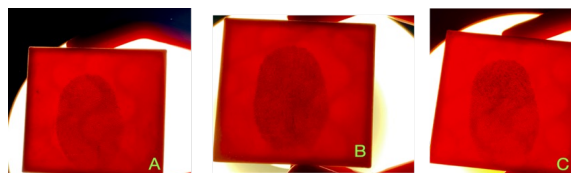


Figure 5: Bottom surfaces of 3D-printed cubes after fingerprint imaging using Ha's novel lighting technique. Source: Figure 11 in Ha (2024).

The second part of Ha's hypothesis was confirmed by printing three identical mock firearms. Microscopic imaging showed that all three shared the same striation patterns. Despite firearm C being printed using a different brand and colour of PLA filament (i.e., polymer plastic), the distinctive tool marks match those on firearms A and B. To the author's knowledge, this is the first undergraduate study to propose that naturally occurring wear on manufacturer-provided build plates can leave forensically useful striation patterns on 3D-printed firearm components. This aspect further supports the study's novelty within a limited but growing body of research. All three firearms were printed on the area designated as O-2, demonstrating that tool marks in this zone were consistently transferred across different prints.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

Ha's study expands the limited body of research on tool mark evidence in 3D-printed firearms. While some previous studies modified their 3D-printer with

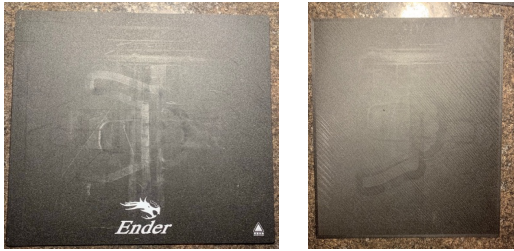


Figure 6: The original build plate provided by the manufacturer has over 2,500 hours of operating time. Source: Figure 15 in Ha (2024).

Figure 7: The underside of a thin plastic sheet printed directly on the build plate, showing transferred tool marks. Source: Figure 16 in Ha (2024).



Figure 8: All three printed mock firearms (labelled A, B, and C), with visible striation patterns transferred from the build plate. Source: Figure 20 in Ha (2024).

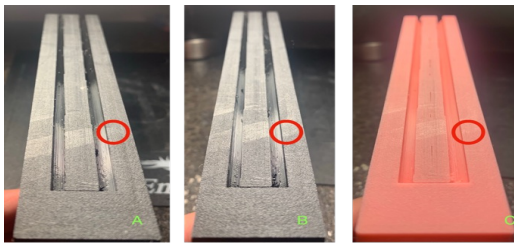


Figure 9: Surface areas of interest on the mock Glock receivers where the build plate contacted the PLA plastic (i.e., polymer) sheet. Source: Figure 21 in Ha (2024).

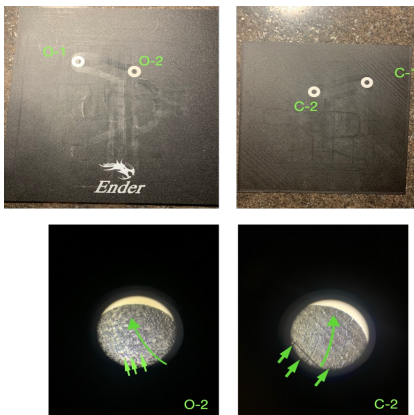


Figure 10: Mirroring between the build plate and the PLA polymer plastic sheet showing transferred striation patterns. Source: Figure 23 in Ha (2024).

a glass build plate. Ha's experiment is novel because it uses a build plate provided by the manufacturer. The study indicates that wear (i.e., hours used) and calibration errors may create striation patterns (i.e., tool markings) that could support forensic comparisons.

These findings contribute preliminary data to the forensic science community and support the idea that tool mark analysis can help trace a 3D-printed firearm back to the printer that produced it. The method introduced may offer a novel, cost-effective way to support firearm tracing, particularly if validated in future research. With further replication, these insights may inform practices such as storing build plates of confiscated 3D-printers to develop comparative catalogues for investigative use.

LIMITATIONS OF HA'S STUDY (2024)

This study only investigated PLA and PLA PRO thermoplastic filament; no other polymer types were tested. It also used bichromatic fingerprint powder, which may not reflect standard practice in all operational forensic laboratories. For the fingerprint analysis, Ha used simple polymer cubes rather than firearm-shaped objects. However, for the tool mark experiment, he printed mock firearm components, which—while simplified—allowed for initial testing of build plate striation transfer. As such, the findings should be interpreted within the limits of a small-scale, undergraduate study.

That said, the research's core principle—that at least one side of an object must form direct contact with the build plate during FDM 3D printing—supports the reasonable expectation that every printed firearm will include at least one flat surface. This lends credibility to the broader applicability of the techniques, though additional testing on more complex firearm designs and alternative materials is needed.

CONCLUSION

As 3D printers become more affordable and accessible, there is growing concern that criminals may exploit them to manufacture illicit weapons. To

address this threat, forensic science must continue developing new techniques. While limited in scale and scope, the honours thesis from which this article is derived introduces novel and repeatable methods that contribute to a small but growing body of research on 3D-printed firearms. Importantly, it addresses a key gap in earlier work by experimentally testing how fingerprint clarity is affected by object orientation and by demonstrating that tool marks left by a printer's build plate can serve as forensic identifiers.

Although preliminary, these findings are encouraging. They suggest that low-cost imaging and trace analysis techniques may assist forensic teams in investigating and tracing 3D-printed weapons. With future funding and expanded experimentation, this research could be refined to support criminal investigations more directly.

Beyond firearms, these techniques may also be applied to other 3D-printed devices, such as drone components or homemade explosive shells. Within the Canadian context, this undergraduate research contributes to building knowledge and tools for police investigations and supports broader public safety goals, though its findings remain preliminary and constrained by the study's small scale and scope. As such, it underscores the need for continued research in this emerging field.

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RÉSUMÉ

Ghost Guns Under the Microscope: New Forensic Techniques for Tracing 3D-Printed Firearms

GORDY HA

Baccalauréat spécialisé en justice pénale
Mount Royal University, Calgary (Alberta)

Cet article présente les conclusions du mémoire de Gordy Ha (2024) en justice pénale à la Mount Royal University. Il s'agit d'une étude préliminaire qui propose des outils d'enquête sur les armes à feu imprimées en 3D, ou « ghost guns ». Ha a conçu et mené deux expériences novatrices à l'aide d'une imprimante 3D FDM. La première propose une méthode de rétroéclairage qui semble améliorer la clarté des empreintes digitales sur le plastique imprimé. S'appuyant sur les travaux de Black (2019) sur la distorsion des empreintes sur les surfaces imprimées, Ha montre que la clarté varie selon l'emplacement de la surface et l'orientation de l'objet. La seconde expérience révèle que des marques microscopiques laissées par la plaque de fabrication peuvent être transférées sur des pièces d'armes imprimées—servant de « signature » forensique pouvant potentiellement permettre d'identifier l'imprimante d'origine. Bien qu'un tel transfert ait été observé sur d'autres objets imprimés, cette étude l'applique spécifiquement à des composants d'armes à feu. Les résultats sont reproductibles, les techniques sont innovantes, mais l'étude reste de petite envergure et doit être considérée comme exploratoire. Elle suggère toutefois une approche accessible et peu coûteuse, utile pour les enquêtes locales et, après la validation, prometteuse pour des applications plus larges. Des recherches supplémentaires seront nécessaires pour évaluer et consolider ces méthodes.

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American Correctional Association

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PLACE - ENDROIT * Colorado Convention Center, Denver Colorado, USA.

INFORMATION * <https://user-3imepyw.cld.bz/2025-Denver-Pre-Conference-Blueprint-ACA-155th-Congress-of-Correction>

OCTOBER 26-31 OCTOBRE 2025

INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISON ASSOCIATION (ICPA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The International Corrections and Prison Association (ICPA)

THEME - THÈME * Wellbeing in Corrections: Initiatives for Staff, Systems and Communities.

PLACE - ENDROIT * Istanbul (Turkey)

INFORMATION * <https://icpa.org/events/icpa2025-annual-conference.html>

OCTOBER 28-30 OCTOBRE 2025

CIAJ-ICAJ 49TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice / Institut canadien d'administration de la justice

THEME - THÈME * Environment And the Law: Protect or Develop, Is There a Choice? // L'environnement et le droit: Protéger ou développer, faut-il choisir?

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - CONFÉRENCIER D'HONNEUR * The Honourable Leonard Marchand, Chief Justice of British Columbia // L'honorable Leonard Marchand, juge en chef de la Colombie-Britannique

PLACE - ENDROIT * Fairmont Hotel, Vancouver (BC), Canada

INFORMATION * <https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en> et <https://ciaj-icaj.ca/fr/>

MARCH 3-7 MARS 2026

ACADEMY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES (ACJS) 63RD ANNUAL MEETING

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)

THEME - THÈME * Crises Across the Criminal Justice Landscape: The Nexus of Governance and Responsibility.

PLACE - ENDROIT * Philadelphia Marriot Downtown Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, USA

INFORMATION * <https://www.acjs.org/annual-meeting/>

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